

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014

**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representative(s) Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, McDonald, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Nielsen

**GUESTS:** Robin Nettinga, IEA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Kristyn Kirschenman, Risch-Pisca; Marilyn Whitney and Amy Nelms SBOE

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**RS 23123:** **Rep. Boyle** presented **RS 23123** and explained the purpose of the proposed legislation is to clarify that a school subdistrict duly created under the requirements of Title 33-351 Idaho Code may bond for the same purposes for which a regular school district may bond under Idaho Code 33-1102. She indicated if two or three high schools were especially competitive they could seek bonding by establishing a subdistrict, thus allowing those residents within the subdistrict to bond as do regular school districts.

In response to a question from the committee, **Rep. Boyle** said subdistricts are defined and established in code, however the bonding ability is not. **Rep. VanOrden** confirmed the establishment of subdistricts. She said subdistricts have never been used, however, she described scenarios where they would be advantageous.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Harris** made a motion to introduce **RS 23123**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 599:** **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Education explained **H 599** is a piece of legislation that has been before the committee for 6 years. It relates to maintenance match. He said it is part of the process of absolving districts and the state from funding commitments they made during the Great Recession of 2008. Mr. Hancock said the bill comes toward the end of the session because it depends on the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee's funding as to the percentages to which each party is absolved.

In response to a question regarding no changes within the script of the bill, **Mr. Hancock** said it is a session bill and is good for only one year.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Horman** made a motion to send **H 599** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1321:** **Jason Hancock** explained **S 1321** gives the State Department of Education (SDE) a little more flexibility. He said currently October 15 is the deadline for data from all districts to be filed and used as multipliers to fund schools. He indicated the bill changes the deadline to January 1, in order to accommodate those schools who are in the process of advertising a position. He said this legislation could help prevent such a "use it or lose it" penalty from being applied to a school district that had tried to hire the required number of teachers, had advertised the position, but had not been successful in finding someone to hire until after October 15th.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **S 1321** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Harris** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1322:** **Jason Hancock** explained **S 1322** is an unusual bill in that SDE will carry out the wishes of the Legislature whether or not it passes; it is just a matter of seeking adjudication. He said the legislation specifies that alternative secondary schools can operate with a minimum instructional hours requirement of 900 hours. He indicated state law has required 990 hours for grades 9-12 since 1991, although the Administrative Rule which set the requirement at 900 hours did not change until 1996. However, the approval forms used by SDE were not changed in 1991 or 1996, and the programs have continued to be approved at the 900 hour requirement. Mr. Hancock explained this legislation would align state law with the long standing practice. He also indicated that if the legislation is not successful, SDE will inform school districts as to the 990 hour requirement for grades 9-12 in secondary alternative schools, and will begin enforcing this requirement beginning with applications for the 2014-2015 school year.

A discussion was held concerning the stakeholders input, the impact on graduation, and the justification for teaching less hours. **Rob Winslow**, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators said the alternative schools he was acquainted with adhered to the 990 hours of instruction. **Mr. Hancock** said the school board trustees would be in charge of policies governing graduation. He also said those alternative schools serving grades 7-12 would most likely be those schools out of sync with the 990 hours of instructions.

**Reps. Horman** and **VanOrden** spoke in favor of **S 1322**. They mentioned the extenuating circumstances that exist in the alternative school setting. Some students travel far distances, some have physical or emotional impairments and some are self-supporting.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to send **S 1322** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kloc** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1323:** **Jason Hancock** explained **S 1323** changes the distribution schedule of formula funds for public schools by eliminating the October 1 payment and reallocating the payment amounts to August 15 and February 15. He said this change will reduce the likelihood of an overpayment, because 30 percent of the payment would be based on actual, current year data, rather than the 20 percent of the payment currently in law. He indicated it would also reduce workloads associated with making payments.

Responding to a question from the committee, **Mr. Hancock** stated he had spoken to the Office of the Treasurer and found the impact on school district interest earnings is negligible. **Chairman DeMordaunt** asked that SDE make sure school districts thoroughly understood the changes and the new schedule for cash flow.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Horman** made a motion to send **S 1323** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jean Vance  
Secretary