

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 02, 2012

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Nonini, Vice Chairman Shirley, Representative(s) Trail, Block, Nielsen, Chadderdon, Shepherd, Wills, Marriott, Thayn, Hartgen, Bateman, Boyle, DeMordaunt, Nessel, Pence, Chew, Cronin

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Representative Henderson; Senator Goedde; Karl Kleinkopf and Thad Scholes, College of Southern Idaho (CSI); Berton Glandon, Jeremy Pisca, and Guy Hurlbutt, College of Western Idaho (CWI); Phil Homer, Harold Ott and Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA); Judy Meyer, Ken Howard, Priscilla Bell, Mark Browning and Teresa Molitor, North Idaho College (NIC); Tracie Bent and Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education (SBE); Camille Wells, State Department of Education (SDE); Jess Harrison, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Garry Lough, Idaho Education Association (IEA); Tony Smith, Benton Ellis; Suzanne Budge, SBS Associates; Max Greenlee, Risch Pisca

**Chairman Nonini** called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Thayn** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 411:** **Rep. Henderson** presented **H 411**. This would increase the Board of Trustees in each community college district from five to seven voting members. Rep. Henderson explained this would ensure that taxpayers who live throughout areas of community college taxing authority have representation on each Board of Trustees. He stated that taxpayer representation is essential to our form of government and explained that **H 411** will ensure that curriculum is responsive to the unique academic and economic needs of the entire area and group of people that each community college serves. If additional territory becomes part of an existing community college district through annexation, the Board of Trustees would need to appoint a nonvoting member to serve on the Board until the next election. He stated that the Mayor and Chamber of Commerce of the City of Nampa, the Mayor of Rathrum, the Post Falls Chamber of Commerce, and others are in support of this change.

In response to questions, **Rep. Henderson** said that the Coeur d'Alene school district does not have taxing authority over their local community college, however, the college has taxing authority over four school districts. He said that all five current trustees live inside the Coeur d'Alene school district. He said that this bill would not remove any current trustees from office and would not force them to run against each other in future elections, but would simply add two additional trustees. During elections, a nonvoting trustee could choose to run for a seat that would allow him or her to become a voting member. Nonvoting members are able to provide input to the board on which they serve. This bill would offer boards the immediate authority to appoint a nonvoting member to represent the interests of a newly annexed county's educational, social, and economic needs by providing input to voting members. He stated that this bill in no way criticizes existing trustees.

Responding to additional questions, **Rep. Henderson** stated that under **H 411**, boards would have the authority to name trustees' seats. He stated that trustees are motivated by the desire to allow community colleges to fulfil their missions in higher education. He believes that there are areas within the State of Idaho that are not currently represented, and specific workforce training needs are not being met due to a lack of adequate input.

**ORIGINAL  
MOTION:**

**Rep. Nielsen** moved to send **H 411** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Rep. Henderson** responded to questions by stating that a local manufacturing group has indicated a concern that the opportunity for training on specific job skills does not exist, and they do not have effective input to their local community college Board of Trustees.

**Karl Kleinkopf**, College of Southern Idaho (CSI), spoke in opposition to **H 411**. He stated he is a resident of Kimberly, Idaho. He is a CSI trustee with many years of education experience as a teacher, coach, athletic director, and professor. He stated that currently the CSI five-member board operates smoothly and efficiently. He stated that adding new members would decrease their effectiveness. Adding new members would also add expenses to include travel and conference attendance. He suggested an alternative to **H 411** would be staggering the Board of Trustees with six year terms, so that not all members would be up for reelection at the same time.

In response to questions, **Mr. Kleinkopf** said that a five member board has worked very well for CSI for forty-six (46) years.

**Guy Hurlbutt**, College of Western Idaho (CWI), is a founding CWI trustee. He spoke in opposition to **H 411**, saying that it assumes that each community college's Board of Trustees operates in a static environment. Currently CWI serves ten counties, but 90% of its students are from Ada and Canyon counties. The college hopes to spread their tax base over time. The five member board is focused on the district as a whole. Each trustee took an oath to represent the entire district, and Mr. Hurlbutt believes that they are effective.

**Judy Meyer**, North Idaho College (NIC), a former president of the State Board of Education, spoke in opposition to **H 411**. She stated that there is no need for this legislation. She said that since 1990, her local Board of Trustees has had members from various areas. A wide range of constituents are represented and supported. Trustees represent their entire service area, and she is concerned that the changes required by **H 411** would create candidates who are more interested in their own small geographic areas than with the community college taxing district as a whole.

**Ken Howard**, North Idaho College (NIC), said that he is the newest trustee at NIC and is currently still in his apprenticeship. He spoke in opposition to **H 411**. He stated that it assumes problems that do not exist. There is no evidence of favoritism or abuse. He is unaware of any public outcry or dissatisfaction with the current method of governance. He said that when he was first elected, he spoke with **Rep. Henderson** and asked for advice on how to effectively serve as a member of the Board of Trustees. It was suggested that he consult with various community members, and he has done that. He said that the Board of Trustees has an advisory committee for each program that's offered, and attempts to maintain outreach areas throughout their taxing district. He is concerned that **H 411** will create undesirable partisanship and special interests. He is also concerned about different methods of dividing geographic areas.

**Priscilla Bell**, North Idaho College (NIC), spoke in opposition to **H 411**. She stated that currently NIC spends in excess of \$100,000 yearly on trustee expenses related to meetings, events, and professional development. Last year, NIC spent just over \$21,000 per trustee. Growing government by expanding to seven trustees would result in an increased cost of approximately \$42,000 per year for NIC.

**Bert Glandon**, College of Western Idaho (CWI), spoke in opposition to **H 411**. He stated that although **H 411** claims no impact to the State General Fund, it would result in a significant fiscal impact to the colleges. He stated that the CWI Board of Trustees is committed to serving its entire area as well as serving as an engine for economic development.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Rep. Marriott** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 411** in committee.

**Rep. Henderson** stated that **H 411** was designed to strengthen community colleges. He believes bringing additional viewpoints and experiences to each Board of Trustees is a benefit. He stated that there is a public outcry for representation. He stated that he has been contacted by citizens who are concerned that they do not have enough input into levies. He said he is startled by the projected costs of adding additional trustees. He believes that **H 411** offers community colleges an opportunity to serve at a higher level and to become even more effective.

**Rep. Marriott** stated that it appears this bill is designed to solve a communication problem in one section of Idaho.

**Rep. Nielsen** stated that this bill provides foresight, because Idaho is moving toward more urban control. He believes **H 411** would provide more adequate representation for rural areas.

**Rep. Shirley** stated that as a lifelong junior college administrator, he has mixed feelings. He expressed a deeply rooted respect for **Rep. Henderson**, and said he understands the motive for **H 411**. He said, however, he cannot ignore testimony from community colleges. He stated that he believes a trustee can give equal consideration to all students regardless of their geographic origins.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Chairman Nonini** called for a vote on the substitute motion to **HOLD H 411** in committee. A roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 11 AYE and 6 NAY, one absent/excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Shirley, Trail, Shepherd, Marriott, Thayn, Hartgen, DeMordaunt, Nessel, Pence, Chew, and Cronin. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Block, Nielsen, Chadderdon, Wills, Boyle, and Nonini. Rep. Bateman was absent/excused.**

**H 394:**

**Tracie Bent**, State Board of Education, explained that **H 394** updates the language in the Interstate Compact on the qualification of educational personnel. A review is done every five years.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Thayn** made a motion to send **H 394** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Thayn** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1223:**

**Senator Goedde** presented **S 1223**. He explained that for years, school boards have been allowed to authorize the use of school buildings for various public purposes. This bill would extend that authority to vacant land.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Boyle** made a motion to send **S 1223** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chairman Nonini** announced that due to time constraints, **H 426** will be heard on Monday morning, February 6, 2012.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

---

Representative Nonini  
Chair

---

Mary Tipps  
Secretary