

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 06, 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:** Representative Block
- GUESTS:** Tamara Baysinger, Public Charter School Commission (PCSC); Rob Winslow, Phil Homer and Harold Ott, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA); Briana Le Claire, Idaho Freedom Foundation; Luci Willits, Michelle Taylor and Jason Hancock, State Department of Education (SDE); Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education (SBE); Carli Thayn and Eric Pedersen, citizens; Jess Harrison, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Suzanne Budge, SBS Associates LLC; Max Greenlee, Risch Pisca
- Chairman Nonini** called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Thayn** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2012 joint committee meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Rep. Chew** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 21118:** **Chairman Nonini** presented **RS 21118**. He explained that this legislation would amend **Idaho Code 33-5203.2.a** to remove the growth cap of six new public charter schools per year, and to remove the cap of one new public charter school per district per year. He said that there was no anticipated impact to the State General Fund. He noted that historical charter school growth rates, together with the extensive nature of the charter petitioning process, indicate that removal of the cap would not result in an increased rate of growth in the number of public charter schools.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Cronin** made a motion to introduce **RS 21118**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 426:** **Rep. Thayn** presented **H 426**, which would allow pre-screened students to finish 8 years of educational requirements in 6 years. He explained that the "8 in 6 Program" was designed to reduce college costs by removing barriers to college attendance during high school. The program would improve college completion rates, give acceleration options to motivated students, and increase de facto scholarship options. Rep. Thayn said that if the program was started in the 7th grade with two online courses and then continued as suggested, by the time a student finished the 10th grade, he/she could have accumulated 64 of the necessary 72 credits required for high school graduation. If concurrent enrollment began in the 10th grade, a senior could graduate from high school with 64 college credits.
- In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. Thayn** stated that the Mastery Advancement Pilot Program (MAPP) was made available for students who wish to challenge a course and receive credit at an accelerated pace. The "8 to 6 Program" allows students dual enrollment in online courses while attending high school. He explained that **H 426** established the program, made conditions for enrollment of a student, and paid for a portion of the overload and summer courses.

Rep. Thayne stated that in order for a student to be enrolled in the "8 in 6 Program," he/she had to take at least one summer course and 14 regular academic credits during the school year. There would be a maximum of 8 summer and/or overload classes per student. The state would pay \$225 per course but if the student earned a "D" or "F", the student would have to pay for the next course to continue enrollment in the program. Rep. Thayne noted that only 10% of students statewide could participate and school districts needed to screen applicants and courses for district eligibility.

Carli Thayne spoke in support of **H 426**. She explained that she was dually enrolled with Emmett High School and the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA). She said she was enrolled in her 10th online course and would be able to graduate high school at the end of her junior year. She testified that taking control of her learning had made her more organized and more independent.

In response to committee questions, **Miss Thayne** stated that many of her friends wished they had taken the online courses and that she believed they had the aptitude to succeed. She said she was involved in extracurricular volleyball, basketball and National Honor Society. She explained that since the Senior Project was a state graduation requirement for the senior year, she had arranged with her school administrator to complete the project during the summer and give her presentation in the Fall of 2012. She also stated that online learning was more challenging than just being held accountable for what a teacher desired a student to know. Miss Thayne said she had to plan ahead and enlist mentors and/or tutors for some of the online courses.

Rep. Thayne recapped the benefit of dual enrollment for families when college credits are earned before students move onto college campuses.

Briana Le Claire, Idaho Freedom Foundation, supported **H 426** because it provided for more student choice. She stated that **H 426** was the first education legislation where the State would finance outcomes instead of funding education providers.

Jason Hancock, Deputy Chief of Staff, State Department of Education, stated that the State Department of Education stood in favor of the legislation. He stated that the fractional ADA was a mechanism for giving students choices. However, it did not provide for those who wanted to accelerate secondary course work. He also reported that the **H 426** would give a funding stream for IDLA.

In response to a question regarding impact upon the average daily attendance (ADA) for Idaho School Districts, **Mr. Hancock** stated that there would be no negative impact and that districts would still receive ADA funding for each student dually enrolled.

Rep. Thayne explained the fiscal implications for the State plus the savings of college tuition monies for individual students.

In response to questions, **Rep. Thayne** stated that online summer classes could be taken at home with no cost to the school districts. Budgeting would come through the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC). He explained that savings to the State would appear in 4 to 5 years when current secondary students begin to graduate from college.

MOTION: **Rep. Hartgen** made a motion to send **H 426** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep Thayne** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

Representative Nonini
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary