

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 17, 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: Representative Wood (35); Garry Lough, Idaho Education Network (IEN); Max Greenlee, Risch Pisca; Janie Ward-Engleking, citizen; Marnie Packard, Pacific Source; Joie McGarvin, American Health Insurance Plans (AHIP); Kathie Garrett, Idaho Association of Family Physicians (IAFP); Marilyn Whitney, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Tracie Bent, State Board of Education (SBE); Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA); Colby Cameron, Sullivan Reberger Eiguren; Kris Ellis, Benton Ellis; Lyn Darrington, Regence Blue Shield of Idaho

Chairman Nonini called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He introduced the new committee page, Megan Fox.

Rep. Shirley advised the committee that the Idaho Education Network (IEN) has offered to help legislators broadcast meetings to their constituents. **Rep. Pence** stated that the Sportsman's Caucus utilizes the Idaho Education Network (IEN) for broadcasts. **Garry Lough**, Idaho Education Network (IEN), stated that legislators can pick up business cards with IEN's contact information from the committee page.

RS 21283: **Rep. Wood (35)** presented **RS 21283**. She thanked Penni Cyr of the Idaho Education Association (IEA) for help rewriting **H 406**, which was heard in the House Education Committee and held to time certain. **RS 21283** is a rewrite of that bill. The purpose of this legislation is to clarify what specific information should be passed between school districts when employees move from one district to another. The word "misconduct" has been replaced with the words "unethical conduct". She outlined how claims of impropriety against school district employees would be handled. Unsubstantiated claims would be able to be redacted from an employee's record.

MOTION: **Rep. Shirley** made a motion to introduce **RS 21283**.

In response to questions, **Rep. Wood** stated that the Professional Standards Commission has more information that can be discussed at a bill hearing if **RS 21283** is introduced. If investigations by school districts do not find any proof of unethical conduct on the part of an employee, that employee does not have to defend his or her actions and any record of a claim against that employee is expunged from the employee's record.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Nonini** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 21283**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21291: **Chairman Nonini** presented **RS 21291**. The purpose of this legislation is to amend Idaho Code 41-2872 and 41-3927 to allow all qualified health care providers to participate in the delivery of health care and specifically be able to contract with health insurance companies and managed care organizations and not be excluded by the growing amount of private networks.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 21291**.

In response to questions, **Chairman Nonini** said that this legislation has been presented in previous years. During those years, members of the legislative body stated that they were concerned that if this legislation passed, health care costs would rise. The legislation did not pass, and health care costs have risen anyway. Approximately half of the United States have provisions requiring that any willing provider be allowed to contract with insurance companies and managed care organizations.

Rep. Nasset invoked Rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest as he sits on the Board of Directors of a major health insurance company.

Rep. Nielsen invoked Rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest as he is a life and disability insurance agent. He will be voting on **RS 21291**.

Responding to additional questions, **Chairman Nonini** stated that in the past, the Hospital Association and the insurance industry have opposed this legislation. His understanding is that insurance companies prefer closed networks. The Idaho Medical Association has supported this legislation in the past.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Nonini** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 21291**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21292: **Chairman Nonini** presented **RS 21292**. The purpose of this legislation is to allow for an increased state pre-tax contribution to Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) and Health Savings Accounts (HSAs). HSAs were created when the federal government created Medicare Part D, prescription drug coverage. This Code Section has not been updated since 1995. If Idaho's citizens are willing and able to utilize their MSAs and HSAs, they will be able to purchase higher deductible coverage at a lower premium.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to introduce **RS 21292**.

Rep. Nielsen spoke in support of the motion, stating that this would provide some tax relief for Idaho's citizens.

In response to questions, **Chairman Nonini** stated that an HSA is specifically geared toward insurance plans with high deductibles.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Nonini** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 21292**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Nonini briefly discussed his presentation to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) and said that he spoke specifically to policy driving the budget rather than the budget driving policy, and that he also spoke specifically about the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA). He mentioned **S 1331**, legislation that backfills money for teachers' salaries.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Representative Nonini
Chair

Mary Tipps
Secretary