

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012
- TIME:** 8:30 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 Bedke; Ann Stephens and Vera McCrink, Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education (PTE); Luci Willits, State Department of Education (SDE); Tony Smith, Benton Ellis; Tracie Bent, State Board of Education (SBE); Dave Goins, Idaho News Service; Phil Homer, Harold Ott and Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA); Jess Harrison, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA)
- Chairman Nonini** called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Thayn** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 21181:** **Rep. Bedke** presented **RS 21181**, which would allow retired teachers and administrators to be rehired as "at will" employees without putting their PERSI benefits in jeopardy. In order to qualify, retired teachers and administrators must have reached the Rule of 90, must not be participating in the early retirement program, and must have retired at or after the age of 62. These returning employees offer savings to school districts because the employee costs would be less expensive, and returning employees bring useful experience. This program has been in effect for five years but is about to sunset. The new legislation does not have a sunset clause.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to introduce **RS 21181**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 21338  
AND  
RS 21339:** **Rep. Hartgen** presented **RS 21338** and **RS 21339**. **RS 21338** would set the Change of Employee Compensation (CEC) at two percent (2%) merit-based ongoing change for all classified and non-classified permanent employees and would reject the Governor's recommendations for employee compensation of a one-time three percent (3%) change. **RS 21339** would set the CEC at zero percent (0%) change for all classified and non-classified permanent employees and would also reject the Governor's recommendations for employee compensation of a one-time three percent (3%) change.
- In response to questions, **Rep. Hartgen** stated that the intent of bringing these differing pieces of legislation is to offer two separate options to germane committees. Zero percent (0%) to two percent (2%) is the range that has been recently discussed. He said that he believes policy should drive budgets rather than allowing budgets to drive policy. He stated that the work of the germane committee is to shape appropriate policy, and the work of the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) is to examine the budget to see how best to support that policy. While the two RSs are different, they offer a broad range that can be discussed.
- In response to a question, **Chairman Nonini** stated that if these RSs are introduced and referred to a germane committee, that committee's chairman will have the authority to determine whether the bills will receive hearings.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Nielsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 21338**.

**Rep. Hartgen** responded to additional questions. He stated that he was not involved in the JFAC meeting when the issue of CEC was discussed, however, he is aware that there was considerable discussion regarding CEC. This type of issue has been raised in previous years. These RSs are designed to give the germane committee an opportunity to discuss what should be done with employee compensation in the coming year. Their determination might affirm what JFAC is doing. If legislation requiring something different from what JFAC recommended is passed, JFAC will have to reevaluate their decision(s).

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Nonini** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 21338**. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Reps. Pence, Chew** and **Cronin** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Rep. Nielsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 21339**.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Chew** made a substitute motion to return **RS 21339** to the sponsor.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Chairman Nonini** called for a vote on the substitute motion to return **RS 21339** to the sponsor. **A roll call vote was requested. Motion failed by a vote of 4 AYE, 10 NAY, 4 absent/excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Trail, Pence, Chew** and **Cronin. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Shirley, Nielsen, Chadderdon, Shepherd, Marriott, Thayn, Bateman, Boyle, DeMordaunt** and **Chairman Nonini. Reps. Block, Wills, Hartgen** and **Nesset were absent/excused.**

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Chairman Nonini** called for a vote on the original motion to introduce **RS 21339**. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Reps. Trail, Pence, Chew** and **Cronin** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**H 534:** **Rep. Shirley** presented **H 534**. He said that this legislation would amend a portion of the leadership section of the Pay for Performance section of Idaho Code, to eliminate the requirement that an instructor or employee must have completed three (3) years of experience before being eligible for leadership awards. This change would allow entering professionals with expertise and outstanding performance to receive immediate consideration for deserving leadership awards.

In response to a question, **Rep. Shirley** said that the State Department of Education does not object to this proposed change.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Marriott** made a motion to send **H 534** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Rep. Shirley** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Ann Stephens**, Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education (PTE), gave a presentation to the committee. She said that eighty percent (80%) of Idaho's occupations and careers require less than a four-year college degree. PTE reaches high school, college, and adult learners. Twenty percent (20%) of people with a professional-technical certificate earn more than the average person with a Bachelor's degree. Ms. Stephens discussed Portable Stackable Credentials, those credentials that build on each other beginning with high school. The delivery system for those credentials includes high schools, professional-technical schools, and community colleges. In FY 2011, Idaho had 781 professional-technical programs in 112 school districts, and 12 professional-technical schools. PTE programs are increasing high school graduation rates by allowing students to find relevant, real-world applications for what they learn.

**Ms. Stephens** said that PTE programs are enrollment restricted due to safety issues, lab space, and the demand for trained professionals. In FY 2011, over 51,000 Idaho adults were served by PTE. Displaced homemakers benefit from PTE. Last year, over 6,000 Idaho adults completed their GEDs through PTE. The Division of Professional-Technical Education is responsible for training state employees and also administers the State Wellness Program. Over 20,000 state employees and legislators are provided access to wellness education through this program. PTE defines success by positive placement, which includes entering a job, the military, or continuing education. Last year, sixty-six percent (66%) of PTE high school completers entered college, as compared to forty-nine percent (49%) of high school students who did not receive PTE.

In response to questions, **Ms. Stephens** stated that 95.34% of their funding goes to direct educational support. She believes that approximately twenty percent (20%) of Idaho's jobs currently require a Bachelor's degree, with many more requiring a specialized certificate. Enrollment restrictions exist due to limited resources such as lab equipment. In order to expand programs without adding funding, the PTE programs would have to reallocate existing resources, which would involve closing certain programs in order to open or expand others. An annual report is produced to break down the numbers of graduates from each PTE program. The Portable Stackable Credentials include high school, postsecondary technical certificates, technical certificates, advanced technical certificates, associate of Applied Science degrees, and Bachelor of Applied Science degrees. Postsecondary technical certificates are quick, one semester classes such as phlebotomy. Technical certificates generally take one year to achieve. Advanced technical certificates can be achieved without the fifteen credit hour general education requirement that exists for Associate degrees. Examples of technical certificate offerings are energy technician programs, and an example of an advanced technical certificate offering would be a paramedic program.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

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Representative Nonini  
Chair

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Mary Tipps  
Secretary