

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 05, 2012

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

**PLACE:** Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Mark San Souci, Department of Defense, State Liaison Office; Wayne Rush, Emmett School District; Tracie Bent and Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education (SBE); Tony Smith, Benton Ellis; Ben Amaya, KBOI 670 AM; William Knickrehm, Payette River Technical Academy; Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA); Tamara Mackenthun, Division of Veterans Services; Suzanne Budge, SBS Associates; Jason Hancock, State Department of Education (SDE)

**Chairman Nonini** called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Thayn** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 29, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

**S 1299:** **Mark San Souci**, Department of Defense, State Liaison Office, presented **S 1299**. He stated that this bill will help veterans who leave the military to have documentation of their training and experience so that they will be better prepared for civilian employment. This documentation will ensure that veterans do not have to repeat academic courses that they completed while in military service. He stated that as of June 2011, one million veterans were unemployed. In 2010, one thousand thirty four (1,034) separating service members came to live in Idaho.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **S 1299** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to questions, **Mr. San Souci** stated that many colleges and universities use the American Council on Education to compare education received in the military with educational offerings in civilian institutions. The first paragraph in the bill is about academic credit, and the second is about licensing boards looking at awarding credit for military experience. The Department of Defense is currently working with the Department of Labor to assist with awarding credit to veterans. Each state's licensing board has specific authority. In Alaska, the Department of Commerce indicated concerns that this would cost the state money. In Oregon there was no testimony in opposition to the bill.

**Tracie Bent**, State Board of Education (SBE), responded to a question. She stated that the SBE has reviewed the bill and it is in alignment with what is already happening on Idaho's campuses. The bill specifically says that boards will create policies. Creation of those policies will not be addressed in rule.

**Rep. Block (Block)** stated that he **supports** the motion. He outlined his experience as a service member who did not receive academic credit for courses he completed.

**Mr. San Souci** responded to an additional question. He stated that the Department of Defense is working with the Department of Labor to assist service members with licensing.

**Rep. Shirley** referenced the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and stated that he **supports** the motion.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**Chairman Nonini** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1299** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wills** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 589:**

**Rep. Thayne** introduced **Wayne Rush**, Superintendent of Emmett School District, to present **H 589**, which deals with counting attendance. He stated that if a student attends school for less than 2.5 hours in a given day, the student is counted as a zero (0) for that day's attendance, because currently the State of Idaho counts attendance only in zero days, half days, and full days. If a student attends school in multiple locations, it is possible that none of the schools educating that student would receive any funding, and that the student would not receive credit for attending school. The current options in public education including professional-technical education programs that allow high school students to attend school on multiple campuses, and home school student to attend one or more courses on public school campuses, as well as other variations in attendance have led to a need to reevaluate the way attendance is counted. Mr. Rush stated that the ideas in this bill have the support of organizations that would be impacted, however, there is more discussion that needs to take place.

In response to questions, **Mr. Rush** said that homeschool parents do not receive State financial support, however, if the homeschooled student attends a class at a public school, that school should receive funding for the student attending that class.

**Karen Echeverria**, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), stated that the ISBA **opposes H 589**. She said that the issue does need to be addressed, but this bill is not ready. She said that the ISBA does believe that schools and students need to receive credit for fractional attendance.

**William Knickrehm**, Payette River Technical Academy, stated that he applauds the State Department of Education for attempting to solve the problems under the current funding model. He stated that allowing fractional attendance to be counted will help support schools and students.

In response to questions, **Mr. Knickrehm** stated that developing common core standards will mean that Idaho will need to expand, rather than replicate, opportunities in education.

**Rep. DeMordaunt** stated that a task force had made recommendations based on using credits versus hours to count attendance.

**Jason Hancock**, State Department of Education (SDE), responded to a question. He stated that a task force has evaluated this problem and will be involved in future discussions.

**Rep. Thayne** responded to questions. He stated that he believes this bill is coming to the committee late in the legislative process and further discussions need to take place. He is agreeable to having the bill held in committee. This bill only addresses how attendance is counted. The current system has created difficulty in sharing facilities and teachers between charter schools and standard public schools.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Wills** made a motion to **HOLD H 589** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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Representative Nonini  
Chair

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Mary Tipps  
Secretary