

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 21, 2013

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Fulcher, Nonini, Thayn, Patrick, Durst and Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:**

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Goedde** convened the meeting at 3:05 p.m. and a silent roll was taken.

RS 21755 **Senators Durst and Thayn** presented RS 21755, which amends *Section 33-1620, Idaho Code*, to remove reference to a pilot program and to remove unnecessary language limiting the availability to school districts and the duration of the program; and repealing Section 7, Chapter 275, Laws of 2010. There will be little or no negative impact to the State General Fund. Impact to the General Fund will be positive if the following assumptions are met:

1. ADA at \$4,593.51
2. 1,000 to 1,500 seniors participate in the pilot project
3. 5 percent early graduation = \$65,000 to \$97,000 in savings to the General Fund
4. 10 percent early graduation = \$130,000 to \$195,000 in savings to the General Fund
5. 20 percent early graduation = \$260,000 to \$390,000 in savings to the General Fund
6. 30 percent early graduation = \$390,000 to \$585,000 in savings to the General Fund.

MOTION: **Senator Nonini** moved, seconded by **Senator Patrick**, to send RS 21755 to print. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 21679 **Chairman Goedde** introduced **Ms. Marilyn Whitney**, President of the State Board of Education, to present RS 21679, which amends the Idaho Code governing state scholarship programs to ensure programs are relevant and effective in assisting Idaho students in completing post-secondary education and to streamline and improve efficiency of program administration. **Senator Nonini** questioned the language on page 4, Section 6, which appeared to be new rather than modified. **Ms. Whitney** explained that all programs were moved into Chapter 43, rather than being separated into the previous three chapters (43, 44 and 45).

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Mortimer** moved, seconded by **Senator Fulcher**, to send RS 21679 to print. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Goedde** introduced **Ms. Michelle Exstrom**, Education Program Director, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), who presented a Legislator's Guide to Educator Effectiveness, including recommendations for preparing effective educators; licensing; recruiting and retaining effective educators; induction; mentoring; professional learning options; and evaluation studies via Measures of Effective Teaching (MET); as well as MET Study 2013 Findings.

A question-and-answer period ensued. **Chairman Goedde** asked if the University of Idaho participated in the program and if the testing includes a portfolio for newly graduated teachers to use when applying for a teaching job. **Ms. Exstrom** answered in the affirmative. **Senator Patrick** asked if attitude and personality can be measured with the present testing system. **Ms. Exstrom** said that these qualities can be measured. **Senator Nonini** addressed the problems found with the rural teachers' Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program and the difficulty in establishing a lettering program to recognize students. **Ms. Exstrom** said they are working with the national organization to make this program more effective. **Senator Durst** asked if teacher working conditions and classroom size were being evaluated. **Ms. Exstrom** answered affirmatively. She cited Alabama who found that working conditions, not bonuses, were more important to teachers. She also said most states lose teachers in the first three years.

In answer to a question posed by **Chairman Goedde**, **Ms. Exstrom** said many states are using the Danielson model as an evaluation tool. **Senator Durst** asked if specific factors are available to predict effectiveness. **Ms. Exstrom** replied that measuring educators over a three-year period will predict effectiveness. She explained how the MET Study 2013 findings can be measured.

Senator Buckner-Webb asked if teachers have input on their evaluations. **Ms. Exstrom** said they do, and they are also provided resources when scores need to be improved. **Senator Thayn** asked if the policies would require additional funding. **Ms. Exstrom** replied that most states have adapted the policies without incurring additional state funding by taking advantage of federal funding and/or eliminating inefficiencies in their current programs.

Chairman Goedde thanked **Ms. Exstrom** for her presentation and introduced the next presenter, **Julie Davis Bell**, NCSL Education Program.

PRESENTATION: **Ms. Bell's** presentation, entitled "State Legislatures and Higher Education Policy," emphasized the growing legislative interest in higher education, primarily due to the recent recession, as well as competition from online learning and private entities. **Ms. Bell** stressed that higher education is viewed by most states as an investment to help economic development. Outlining 2012 activities, **Ms. Bell** also spoke of the focus on productivity, which includes improving completion rates, eliminating duplicate and inefficient programs, improving high school rigor and college readiness, and performance funding.

Ms. Bell also outlined goals for 2013, including new funding and privatization strategies, incentives for students to move through the system quicker, promoting collaboration among institutions, financial assistance, community colleges and state obligation to provide higher education.

Senator Thayn asked if there is increasing interest in professional technical training and subsequent jobs. **Ms. Bell** said there is a growing interest in technical training. **Chairman Goedde** thanked **Ms. Bell** for her presentation.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business to come before the committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m. until Tuesday, January 22, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

Sentor Goedde
Chairman

Elaine Leedy
Secretary