

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 01, 2013
TIME: Upon Adjournment of the House
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Agidius, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, Pence, Kloc, Ward-Engelking
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Boyle
GUESTS: Jason Hancock, Department of Education; Robin Netting, Idaho Education Association (IEA); Harold Ott, Idaho Rural Schools Association (IRSA); Jessica Harrison, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

RS 22133: **Rep. Pence** presented **RS 22133**, which would state legislative findings and declare support for an "Invent Idaho Day", to acknowledge and celebrate creative student work, and invite display of such projects at the Capitol rotunda after each State competition. Invent Idaho awards prizes including a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Idaho. The competition supports science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) goals and meets the demand for enabling Idaho's students to compete in the global economy.

In response to questions, **Rep. Pence** said Invent Idaho projects are done by individual students.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to introduce **RS 22133** and send it to the to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Pence** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1092: **Jason Hancock**, Department of Education, presented **S 1092**, which would reinstate ongoing formula-driven funding of \$4.8 million for school districts and public charter schools to meet the State's increased high school graduation requirements for math and science courses. Previously, two years of math and science were required for high school graduation; the requirement increased to three years and the first class affected is the Class of 2013. **S 1184 (2011)** previously provided funding to hire additional math and science teachers, or pay for the necessary online math and science classes, at local school district discretion. The repeal of **S 1184 (2011)** through Proposition 3 eliminated this funding for schools.

Responding to questions, **Mr. Hancock** said this bill would provide a solution for FY2014 and beyond. The graduation requirement is not temporary. All schools will qualify for some level of funding. If this is approved, the \$4.8 million appropriation for this distribution will simply remain in place. Schools are required to ensure that their students meet graduation requirements. This bill only addresses the funding requirement; graduation requirements are made in administrative rule. The Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee (JFAC) makes budget decisions. It is possible that the \$4.8 million appropriation could change from year to year, depending on requirements. Charter schools with high school aged students would receive part of this funding. Distribution is made based on the number of students at each school. If a high school has only grades 10 through 12, that school

would count the 9th grade students at their related middle school(s) or junior high school(s) in their funding formulas.

Robin Nettinga, Idaho Education Association (IEA), spoke in opposition to **S 1092**. She said the IEA supports the graduation requirements and the need to hire additional teachers, however, they do not support creating a permanent line item in the budget for additional funding. She requested that a one-year sunset be added to the bill.

In response to questions, **Ms. Netting** explained that conversations could come from the Governor's Task Force and members of the public that would provide other ideas.

Rep. Wills commented that the Legislature would be able to make a change to this legislation with or without a sunset.

**ORIGINAL
MOTION:**

Rep. Nielsen made a motion to send **S 1092** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. He spoke to his motion, saying that meeting the needs of all Idaho's high schools including charter schools, and providing additional math and science instruction, is important for Idaho. He reiterated that the Legislature can make a change without a sunset clause if a change is deemed necessary.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Rep. Pence made a substitute motion to send **S 1092** to General Orders. She spoke to her motion, saying that flexibility is necessary and she would like to add a sunset clause.

Rep. Clow spoke in opposition to the substitute motion to send **S 1092** to General Orders, saying that new legislation can always be implemented.

Rep. Nielsen spoke in opposition to the substitute motion to send **S 1092** to General Orders, saying that a sunset clause could send the message that the Legislature is not sure they support the funding.

**VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Chairman DeMordaunt called for a vote on the substitute motion to send **S 1092** to General Orders. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

**VOTE ON
ORIGINAL
MOTION:**

Chairman Demordaunt called for a vote on the original motion to send **S 1092** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wills** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 224:

Jason Hancock, Department of Education, presented **H 224**, which would clarify that the employment contracts signed by educators for the 2012-2013 school year will continue to be governed by the laws that existed at the time contracts were made.

MOTION:

Rep. Horman made a motion to send **H 224** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep Agidius** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 225:

Jason Hancock, Department of Education, presented **H 225**, which would clarify which version of Section 33-1003, Idaho Code, is current law. After the repeal of **S 1108 (2011)** through Proposition 1, the Attorney General's Office has written that the version established separately and more recently by **H 603 (2012)** takes precedence over the 2010 version of statute. The published version of Idaho Code does not recognize the changes brought about by that bill, and shows Section 33-1003 reverting to its 2010 version after the repeal of **S 1108 (2012)**. **H 225** would repeal and republish the entire code section.

MOTION:

Rep. VanOrden made a motion to send **H 225** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. VanOrden** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 226: **Jason Hancock**, Department of Education, presented **H 226**, which would provide a way to calculate support units for the Idaho Youth Challenge Program. Under current laws and rules, the State Department of Education would be unable to recognize all of the students who attend the program due to its accelerated, cohort-based approach to education. Currently only half of the students they serve could be funded.

MOTION: **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to send **H 226** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Responding to questions, **Mr. Hancock** said a large number of students in this program will graduate from high school through the program. He does not believe the school is designed for students to attend during multiple semesters. Students receive one year's worth of instruction in a single semester.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 226** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Kloc** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Mary Tipps
Secretary