

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 25, 2013

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room 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** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 2:06 p.m., and a silent roll was taken.

MOTION: **Senator Buckner-Webb** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 13, 2013. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 295 **Jason Hancock**, State Department of Education (SDE) explained that **H 295** changes the calculation of support units from the nearest 10th to the nearest 100th. Previously, the nearest 100th had been used. Changing to the nearest 10th was one of the "casualties" of the repeal of Students Come First. The nearest 100th calculation ensures that funding follows the student.

MOTION: **Senator Patrick** made a motion to send **H 295** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Patrick will carry the bill on the floor.

H 318 **Jason Hancock**, SDE, explained that **H 318** is a "housekeeping" bill to correct a cross-reference in the code. It allows the State Board of Education to promulgate a fee rule, which would allow the State Department of Education to collect a fee to defray the cost of reviewing the content alignment of certain online courses. The incorrect cross-reference resulted from repeal of Students Come First. **H 318** is a trailer bill to S 1091 concerning online learning which previously passed by the Senate.

MOTION: **Senator Thayn** made a motion to send **H 318** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Patrick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Thayn** will carry the bill on the floor.

H 319

Jason Hancock, SDE, explained that **H 319** deals with the state's requirement that local school districts put a certain amount of money towards maintaining school buildings each year. Similar legislation has been passed every year since fiscal year 2010 (FY10). In that year, as the state's revenue declined precipitously due to the Great Recession, we absolved ourselves of the requirement that the state provide a certain percentage (0.5% of replacement value, on average) of the replacement value of school buildings, through intent language in the appropriation bill. Because the local school district matching percentage (1.5% of replacement value, on average) was not germane to the state appropriation, it was left for the Education Committees to develop policy dealing with the local match. This legislation, first brought for FY10, absolved local districts of their match requirement if they had no plant facility levy that acted as a source of matching funds, and if they had no school safety issues based on their most recent annual building inspection. If these two standards were met, districts could shift these funds to other one-time, non-personnel costs.

Mr. Hancock continued, stating **H 319** is identical to the legislation of the last four years, except that the flexibility is only provided on two-thirds of the local match requirement. The reason for this is that the state, through the appropriation, is phasing back into funding the state side of building maintenance funding, such that one-third of the required state funds will flow to districts for building maintenance this year. Therefore, this legislation backs off of local flexibility on one-third of the local match, in step with the state funding, but still provides it for the two-thirds in which the matching funds from the state are not yet being provided.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Mortimer made a motion to send **H 319** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. **Chairman Goedde** indicated that he would try to have the bill follow the budget. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Vice Chairman Mortimer will carry the bill on the floor.

ADJOURNED:

Having no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Senator Goedde
Chairman

Elaine Leedy
Secretary