

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2014

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

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 Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m., and a silent role was taken. He commented that over the course of the next several meetings, the Committee would review the Governor's Task Force recommendations in depth. He stated that today's focus would be on print hearings for proposed legislation.

RS 22436 **Ann Joslin**, State Librarian, Idaho State Library said that **RS 22436** corrects and amends an existing statutory citation governing open meeting laws for public libraries. Libraries are already required to follow open meeting laws. The correction is technical only.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Mortimer** made a motion to print **RS 22436**. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 22439C1 **Marilyn Whitney**, Chief Communication and Legislative Officer, State Board of Education (Board), stated that the proposed changes in **RS 22439C1** will provide a clear definition in Code of the options for secondary students to attend postsecondary institutions for either secondary credit, for postsecondary credit, or for dual credit. This is the foundational statute that allows for secondary students to take dual credit courses. Additional proposed changes to this chapter would eliminate the requirement that each individual school district have a Memorandum of Understanding with the governing board of each institution from which students take courses from, as well as update terms used in the chapter to better reflect the options students have today.

MOTION: **Senator Pearce** made a motion to print **RS 22439C1**. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 22445 **Marilyn Whitney** stated that the proposed legislation would change the timing of Board member appointments from March 1 to July 1. The new timing will avoid the breaks in service of Board members that are reappointed or appointed to vacant seats on the Board. The bill also proposes that Board members assume their duties upon appointment, which would still be subject to Senate confirmation, to avoid prolonged vacancies. January 1 was considered, but with holidays and preparations for the legislative session, it was decided that moving it outside the holiday and legislative session was a better option.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Mortimer** made a motion to print **RS 22445**. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Chairman Goedde passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Mortimer.

RS 22353

Chairman Goedde said that the definition described in statute as "school bus chrome" is not an adequate definition of a paint color. School bus colors now comply with international and federal mandates. The proposed change simply corrects the name of the color.

MOTION:

Senator Fulcher made a motion to print **RS 22353**. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. In discussion, **Senator Pearce** noted a discrepancy between the language of the proposed legislation and the Statement of Purpose (SOP). The SOP states that no buses would need to be painted, while current legislation and the proposed bill state that buses need to be painted prior to being sold. **Chairman Goedde** offered to hold the bill, pending further investigation. **Senator Fulcher** withdrew his motion.

RS 22536

Chairman Goedde said that the proposed bill would try to map a course of compensation for education employees at the district level, and would increase the number of classified employees funded by increasing the current .375 factor per unit to .41 per unit. This would bring the funded employee amount closer to the current level staffed by districts and charters. In concert with other bills to be introduced, this solution would be a step forward in repairing an inequity in current funding.

MOTION:

Senator Thayn made a motion to print **RS 22536**. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel back to Chairman Goedde.

RS 22578

Senator Thayn said the proposed bill would (1) clarify which students may be eligible for the Master Advancement Scholarship, (2) clarify that professional certificates are eligible for advance opportunity programs, (3) establish a program whereby \$200 will be available for high school juniors and \$400 for high school seniors for dual credit and professional technical certifications (4) change the credits required for 7th and 9th graders that participate in the "8 in 6" program, and (5) clarify how liquor fund monies are to be used in relation to advanced opportunity programs.

Vice Chairman Mortimer asked for clarification of how the liquor fund money was to be used. **Senator Thayn** replied that any other monies that would be available would be used prior to the \$200/\$400 in this bill, except for payments bestowed by the liquor fund. The bill was written in this manner because this Committee has never discussed whether liquor funds should be used for dual credit students in high school, even though liquor funds have been used in practice. **Chairman Goedde** and **Vice Chairman Mortimer** confirmed that currently counties are being billed for high school dual credit courses from their general funds; only community colleges have the ability to claim liquor funds for dual credit courses. **Chairman Goedde** also confirmed that portions of this bill reflect the Superintendent of Public Instruction's budget. **Senator Pearce** asked how many credits the \$200 and \$400 would buy. **Senator Thayn** replied that he was not exactly sure how many credits the \$3 million requested in this bill would buy in total, but he did clarify that \$200 for a high school junior would pay for approximately three-quarters of three-credit class; \$200 would buy two advanced placement (AP) tests. **Senator Pearce** said that some students won't take advantage of this program, and those who do would receive three-quarters of the cost for one dual credit class for juniors, and two dual credit classes for seniors. If those students desired to take more dual credit classes, they would need to pay the full cost. **Senator Pearce** suggested it might be better to allocate money to the school, allow sophomores one dual credit class, juniors two, and the balance be awarded to those students who were willing to work harder. In this manner, the money would be fully used. **Senator Thayn** prefers the

present language and will invite Superintendent Brian Kirby to talk about how dual credits are affecting his district.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Mortimer** made a motion to print **RS 22578**. **Senator Fulcher** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 22590 **Robin Nettinga**, Executive Director, Idaho Education Association, stated that **RS 22590** would provide for immunity from civil or criminal liability to school bus drivers who come to the aid of someone on their bus who they believe may be in imminent danger of harm or injury. The additional language being proposed can be found on page 3, lines 13-15 of the bill. While school boards have the authority and responsibility for developing and enacting policies governing student transportation, trustees do not have the authority to grant immunity when one of their bus drivers intervenes to protect someone. Only the legislature has that authority.

MOTION: **Senator Buckner-Webb** made a motion to print **RS 22590**. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2014. **Vice Chairman Mortimer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: Having no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m.

Senator Goedde
Chair

Elaine Leedy
Secretary