

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 27, 2014
TIME: 8:30 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman Nielsen, Representative(s) Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Horman, Mendive, VanOrden, McDonald, Pence, Kloc, Rubel
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Guy Bliesner, Brian Armes, Educators Eyes; Norm Stewart, Marsing School District; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Phil Horman, Rob Winslow, IASA; Julie Hart, Ekahau; Todd Zucker, Weiser School District

Chairman DeMordaunt called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

RS 22957: **Rep. Trujillo** presented **RS 22957** regarding parental rights. She stated with changes in our education system, parents felt their rights were being taken away. It is the intent of the Legislature to emphasize the rights of parents as those rights relate to their children's education. While the Legislature is charged with the task of establishing and maintaining a general, uniform and thorough system in public schools, the Legislature acknowledges and confirms the rights of parents as they relate to their children's education.

MOTION: **Rep. Horman** made a motion to introduce **RS 22957. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22992: **Rep. Gibbs** presented **RS 22992** regarding changing small school district restrictions on hiring of spouses. This proposed legislation revises the authority of school district trustees and public charter school board of directors regarding employment of a spouse. It also provides additional grounds for category 1 contract issuance.

MOTION: **Rep. Nielsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 22992. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22931: **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Chief of Staff, State Department of Education, presented **RS 22931** regarding eliminating duplicate distribution of funds for alternative school average daily attendance. This proposed legislation closes a loophole in the states funding formula for public schools, which if not closed, could allow for the double-funding of some students. Since the school district is already fully-funded for 1-100 students through the secondary minimum of eight support units, and students transferring from regular secondary to alternative secondary would be counted, and funded, a second time on the alternative secondary table. This proposed legislation would only fund an alternative secondary school in such a small district if it was a regional program serving multiple small school districts on the secondary support unit minimum. Mr. Hancock said that this is looking ahead and is prospective in nature.

MOTION: **Rep. Horman** made a motion to introduce **RS 22931. Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 528:

Jason Hancock, Deputy Chief of Staff, State Department of Education presented **H 528** regarding cigarette tax distribution to public school safety. The purpose of this legislation is to improve student safety by addressing the allocation of the public schools share of cigarette tax revenues and the recommendations of the Safe Schools Task Force. On the issue of the distribution of the public schools share of Cigarette Tax revenues, this legislation codifies the longtime practice of distributing \$200,000 to the Idaho State Police to defray toxicology lab costs, and approximately \$80,000 to the Commission on Hispanic Affairs for substance abuse prevention efforts. These distributions would be made directly to these agencies, rather than being passed through the public schools budget first, which adds no value or transparency to the distribution. This legislation also increases school district flexibility in the use of the balance of these funds by broadening its uses to include the development and implementation of school safety improvements. It also requires school trustees to have a school safety plan for each school, and to meet annually with first responders to update the plans.

Matt McCarter, stated there are significant gaps in Idaho security at schools, and there are real barriers at the local level. He also said that meeting with the schools to create a plan is part of how to maintain a safe environment and should be a requirement.

Guy Bliesner, Educators Eyes, testified **in support** of **H 528** and stated much of this entails long term funding which is not sufficient. Mr. Bliesner stated he understands the issue of limited resources and this would at least be a good start.

Norm Stewart, Superintendent for Marsing School District, testified **in support** of **H 528** and stated they do use local law enforcement and first responders to create a plan. On January 30th Marsing School District high school experienced an event that brought this issue to light. Two attempts of lockdown notification went to voicemail. The high school had put itself in lockdown. Mr. Stewart said the students and staff were very fortunate the suspect did not want to do harm. There were several breakdowns in the school safety protocol, and accessibility was an issue. Mr. Stewart explained that school safety has to be one of our highest priorities in education. Targeted School funds from legislation could be used for this.

Julie Hart, Ekahau, spoke **in support** of **H 528** and said any measure that helps secure school safety is important to her.

Todd Zucker, Co-Principal, spoke **in support** of **H 528** and stated as educators they are charged with protecting our greatest resource which is our children. Weiser High School was built in the 1950s when security was not a concern. Now there are many concerns, and the school is not set up to address these concerns. As administrators they are concerned on a daily basis, and they need some dedicated funding for school safety.

MOTION:

Rep. Nielsen made a motion to send **H 528** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:**

Chairman DeMordaunt requested a **roll call vote** on **H 528**. **Motion carried by a vote of 7 AYE, 5 NAY, and 4 absent/excused.. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Nielsen, Clow, Horman, McDonald, Pence, Kloc, DeMordaunt. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Wills, Boyle, Gestrin, Harris, Mendive. Reps. Shepherd, Bateman, VanOrden, and Rubel were absent/excused. Rep. McDonald** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Amber Duke
Secretary