

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 07, 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: Kristyn Kirschenman, Risch-Pisca; Karen Echeverria, Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association; Rob Winslow, IASA; Marilyn Whitney and Amy Nelms, State Board of Education; Penni Cyr and Robin Nettinga, IEA

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

RS 23069: **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Chief of Staff, State Department of Education, explained **RS 23069** the legislation provides more flexibility to school districts in coping with limited budgets, by providing one-third relief in FY15 from the requirement that school districts allocate a certain amount of funding for school building maintenance, under certain circumstances. This relief was provided in full for the FY10-FY13 period, and for two-thirds of these moneys in FY14, under the same circumstances. Mr. Hancock said the legislation is consistent with the second year of a three-year, phased-in reinstatement of the maintenance match requirement approved in the FY15 Public Schools appropriation bill. He indicated there would be no fiscal impact to the state and school districts will be given additional tools to help in managing limited budget.

MOTION: **Rep. Pence** made a motion to introduce **RS 23069**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1326: **Sen. Ward-Engelking** explained the purpose of **S 1326** is to develop an accurate database of information that accounts for the actual student-to-teacher ratio in every Idaho school district. She said the legislation would require the State Department of Education to gather, compile and report by grade, the number in every Idaho elementary school classroom and by grade and subject in every secondary school of students who regularly appear in an instructor's classroom or on his/her class roster.

In response to questions from the committee, **Sen. Ward-Engelking**, explained presently the data shows certified staff per student ratio. It includes counselors, vice principals, librarians and other staff not in classroom settings. She said **S 1326** brings no fiscal impact to the legislation because the State Department of Education has the ability to gather the specific data already. She indicated it would not affect the "use it or lose it" distribution of funds. To a question regarding the content specialist or other changes in the classroom of the future, Sen. Ward-Engelking said the data would still be good, but modifications may need to be made.

MOTION: **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to send **S 1326** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Robin Nettinga, Executive Director, Idaho Education Association, stated IEA was **in support** of the legislation. She indicated the three organizations worked together to craft the language in **S 1326**.

- VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1326** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Rubel** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- S 1317:** **Karen Echeverria**, Executive Director Idaho School Boards Association, (ISBA) explained in the 2013 Legislature, when ISBA ran all of their labor bills, a sunset clause was set on three of those bills. The purpose of the sunset clause was to collect data and to bring that information back to the legislature. Based on the data received, the association could either ask the legislature to make the laws permanent or to let the sunsets die. After collecting one year of data and working through the recommendations of the Governor's Education Task Force, ISBA would like to extend the sunsets for one more year. This will provide the time to collect more data and to see what occurs with the legislation related to the Governor's Task Force Recommendations. She indicated it is consensus legislation and the Idaho Association of School Administrators and the Idaho Education Association are in agreement. She explained **S 1317** will extend the sunset on **H 261** from last year. **H 261** dealt with seniority and clarified when imposing a reduction in force, the school district could not use seniority as the only determining criteria.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Horman** made a motion to send **S 1317** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- S 1318:** **Karen Echeverria** explained **S 1318** will extend the sunset on **S 1147aa** from last year. That legislation dealt with the removal of evergreen clauses from master agreements. The legislation sets out that all master agreements are in effect from July 1 to June 30 of each year.
- In response to questions, **Ms. Echeverria** said there needs to be another year to see how the Task Force recommendations play out, plus the Education Interim Committee recommended the extension. She said the change in the evergreen clause is something ISBA likes, however, others may wish to reinstate the clause to its former status.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Kloc** made a motion to send **S 1318** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Kloc** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- S 1319:** **Karen Echeverria** explained **S 1319** will extend the sunset on **S 1040aa** from last year. That legislation gave school districts the ability to reduce the salaries of certificated staff under certain conditions. **S 1319** is slightly different from the first bill because there are dates in the actual legislation that need to be amended as well as the date in the sunset clause.
- MOTION:** **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to send **S 1319** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. VanOrden** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jean Vance
Secretary