

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 25, 2015

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman VanOrden, Representatives Shepherd, Wills, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Mendive, McDonald, Dixon, Kerby, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman VanOrden, Representative McDonald

**GUESTS:** Elizabeth Roberts, Gayle Wilde, Kathy Scott, Sylvia Chariton, and Julie Custer, AAUW; Kathy Griesinger, ACLU Idaho; Toni Brunegar, Idaho Council on DD Diesel; Phil Homer, IASA; Robin Nettinga, IEA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 23521:** **Rep. Rubel** presented **RS 23521**. She said the proposed legislation addresses a very real problem in a very practical way. She reported 15% of all students who are no-shows in classrooms fear being bullied at school and one out of 10 students drops out due to repeated bullying. She explained the stress related effects of bullying and attributed Idaho's sixth-in-the-nation, student suicide rate to bullying. **Rep. Rubel** indicated the goal of **RS 23521** is to focus on intervention; and, training school personnel with best practices for identifying and responding to instances of bullying. She said Idaho School Boards Association, Idaho Education Association, American Association of University Women, Interfaith Alliance, and a variety of parent groups support the proposed legislation.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wills** made a motion to introduce **RS 23521**, with a change to the Statement of Purpose. On line 5 of the first paragraph, change "and" to "an" before the word "individual."

A discussion was held concerning the implication of such phrases in **RS 23521** as: teacher expected to intervene, schools should undertake all, districts shall report...to the State Department of Education, and the school shall (rather than may) be guilty of an infraction. Also discussed, were concerns regarding teacher liability, bullying reports being part of a permanent record, and schools' flexibility being diminished.

In response to the concerns, **Rep. Rubel** explained the proposed legislation provides for teachers to be well-trained prior to being held to the standard of the statute, the document writers in Legislative Services are currently changing may to shall in most cases, and teachers are presently insulated from personal liability suits. She indicated questions asked would allow her to do some research prior to the bill hearing.

**VOTE ON  
MOTION:** **Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 23521** with the changes to the Statement of Purpose. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Jean Vance  
Secretary