

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015

**TIME:** 8:30 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:** None

**GUESTS:** Lorna Finman, LCF Enterprises; Janine Byers, Micron; Alex Simpson, West Ada School District; Bob Fick, Labor; Penni Cys, IEA; Sara Scudder, Labor; Rob Winslow, IASA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools/IASA; Tom Corder, SDE; Jess Harrison, ISBA; Brian Whitlock, Anne Seifert, Idaho National Lab; Sylvia Charitou, AAVW; Rod Gramer, IBE; Jason Kreizenbeck, Mountain View Hospital; Ken McClure, HP; Marilyn Whitney, Governor's Office.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

**Chairman DeMordaunt** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman VanOrden**.

**H 302:** **Senator Nonini** and **Rep. DeMordaunt** presented **H 302**. This legislation establishes a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Action Center in Idaho. The State's STEM efforts will better prepare Idaho students for competitive employment opportunities.

Those speaking **in support** of **H 320** were **Lorna Finman**, LCF Enterprises; **Janine Byers**, Micron; **Brian Whitlock**, INL; **Rod Gramer**, IBE; **Ann Siefert**, INL; and **Ken McClure**, HP. They were of the opinion a STEM Action Center is necessary to facilitate the education and preparation of a qualified workforce in Idaho.

In answer to a question, **Pete Koehler**, Chief Deputy, Dept of Ed.; responded Science curriculum is resource demanding and there is a the teacher shortage in the areas of Science and Math.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **H 302** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Chairman DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Vice Chairman VanOrden** turned the gavel over **Chairman DeMordaunt**.

**H 275:** **Rep. Dayley** presented **H 275**. The amendment changes language in Idaho Code relative to the Educational Support Program which provides fiscal protection for school districts against the possibility of declining enrollment. The changes would allow growing school districts to opt out of the insurance program once within a five year window under specified restrictions. Rep. Dayley stated this is an issue of choice. School districts could analyze their needs and insure or self-insure.

**Rob Winslow**, IASA; spoke **in opposition** to the bill. He expressed concerns relative to the loss of funds affecting viability of the program if growing school districts opt out. He indicated this legislation could create a domino effect and change hiring practices in districts that experience declining enrollment.

**Alex Simpson**, West Ada School District; spoke **in support** of **H 275**. He stated the current system provides financial relief to districts with declining enrollment at the expense of larger districts with growing enrollment. Loss of the diverted funds results in an inability to higher more teachers to alleviate over crowding in those school districts experiencing growth.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **H 275** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

**H 278:** **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, OSBE presented **H 278**. The proposed legislation adds language to Idaho Code allowing Education Support Program funds to be used toward academic and college or career advising. The legislation adds clarity to the current definition of "School Counselors" and adds a new section defining academic and college or career advisors.

**Penni Cys**, President, IEA, **Jess Harrison**, ISBA, and **Harold Ott**, Rural Schools spoke **in opposition** to the bill. Objections were voiced relative to the prescriptive nature of the legislation as it relates to a counselor's job description. While the intent of the legislation is good, there could be unintended consequences by limiting a counselor's participation in certain activities in smaller school districts where counselors wear many hats.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McDonald** made a motion to **HOLD H 278** in committee.

**Rep. McDonald** spoke to the motion by saying the committee should review and clean up the bill.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Rubel** made a substitute motion to **send H 278** to General Orders.

**VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Motion failed by voice vote.**

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 A.M.

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Representative DeMordaunt  
Chair

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Joyce McKenzie  
Secretary