

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 11, 2016

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman DeMordaunt, Vice Chairman VanOrden, Representative(s) Shepherd, Wills, Boyle, Clow, Gestrin, Harris, Mendive, McDonald, Dixon, Kerby, Pence, Kloc, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Shepherd, Clow, Harris

GUESTS: Ann Joslin, Idaho Commission of Libraries; Harold Ott, Idaho Rural Schools Association; Jess Harrison, Idaho School Board Association; Dean Mortimer, Senate; Phil Homer, Idaho Association of School Administrators

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

S 1333: **Rep. Malek** spoke to **S 1333**. He said the bill creates a fund for broadband infrastructure investment grants. It will provide opportunities for school districts which need funds to invest in broadband infrastructure. The fund will help those districts leverage existing funding. Qualifying districts can apply for BIIG Fund dollars up to 10% of a district's project costs. The district can use the state funding commitment to receive additional e-rate funding and larger e-rate discounts to lower the project costs. The state contributes 10% of the cost, and the federal government contributes 10%. **Rep. Malek** said the bill came from a suggestion of the governor's interim committee on education. It provides a broadband infrastructure and allows for competition.

In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. Malek** said the infrastructure will be treated like a public infrastructure. Rules will be promulgated to determine the oversight and cost. The school district is eligible for e-rate funding and discounts, and the contractors benefit from other providers being able to join the infrastructure for the same cost. The fund is established to help districts raise 10% of the necessary funding, and creates a place to store the matching 10% from the federal government, said **Rep. Malek**. Nothing in the bill dictates there will be only one provider, he added.

MOTION: **Rep. Gestrin** made a motion to send **S 1333** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Malek** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1334: **Rep. Malek** spoke to **S 1334**. He said the governor's interim committee on education struggled with narrowing the focus. The Idaho Education Network, Idaho Code § 33-125A, tried to do too much at once, he added. The bill allows school districts to acquire their own contracts, and transfers resources and duties of the Idaho Education Network to the State Department of Education, said **Rep. Malek**, and codifies what is already happening. The State Department will be a resource for districts which need it, but districts may also acquire their own contracts. The bill balances local control with providing a resource for districts which don't have their own resource, said **Rep. Malek**.

In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. Malek** said he has not heard from schools about their e-rate funding for four years, so he assumes they are doing well.

In response to questions from the committee, **Chris Campbell**, State Department of Education Technical Officer, said the vast majority of school districts received their e-rate funding.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **S 1334** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Malek** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Representative DeMordaunt
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary