

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 13, 2017
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m. He opened with a reading from the book, *A Heap O'Living Along Life's Highway*, by Eager A. Guest, entitled "Wisdom."
- RS 25250** **Relating to Schools: Amend and Make Technical Corrections. Karen Echeverria**, Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), also speaking in behalf of the legislation's co-sponsor, the Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA), explained the rationale for **RS 25250**, which contains new language relating to the School Based Medicaid Reimbursement Program. The primary purpose is to establish and operate an effective, transparent and accountable system to optimize available federal Medicaid funds for delivery to school based Medicaid programs.
- Ms. Echeverria** said that it is believed Idaho is leaving nearly \$30 million on the table under current rules, because public schools do not have the ability to seek reimbursement for all of the funds under the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Act. The new legislation: 1.) describes the services a student may be eligible to receive; 2.) sets out when reimbursement will begin; 3.) reconstitutes a current interagency committee, which will report annually to the legislature; and 4.) allows for reimbursement for Medicaid administrative claims. The legislation provides flexibility for public schools while remaining in compliance with federal law.
- MOTION:** **Senator Nonini** moved that **RS 25250** be sent to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- RS 25213** **Relating to Criminal History Checks: Amend, Authorize, and Emergency Declaration. Senator Ward-Engelking** presented the **RS 25213**, and said the legislation amends Idaho Code § 33-130 to allow the State Department of Education (SDE) to share the results of an educator's background information with the employing school district or public charter school. This provision will reduce the cost to the applicant, the SDE, and local law enforcement.
- MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved that **RS 25213** be sent to print. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL:

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

RS 25270C1

Relating to Schools: Amend and Add a New Section. Chairman Mortimer explained the rationale for **RS 25270C1**, is to establish a new section of education spending titled, "School District Employer Health Care." The section specifies an allocation method to provide districts with funds for school district employee health insurance costs in an amount equitable and in the same proportion as state employee health care cost adjustments.

MOTION:

Senator Nonini moved that **RS 25270C1** be sent to print. **Senator Den-Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL:

Vice Chairman Thayn. passed the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

RS 25247

Master Teacher Premiums. Vice Chairman Thayn presented **RS 25247**, which moves and expands a section of code to provide another option to the Master Teacher Premium Program by adding a new section 33-1004k to Idaho Code. He said school districts can choose to participate in either the Master Teacher Premium Program where teachers earn premiums based on portfolios and evaluations, or they may choose to participate in the Master School Premium Program where teachers receive master premiums based on students achieving academic goals set within the school district and approved by the State Board of Education. A school district may participate in only one of these programs. The program would begin in the 2020 fiscal year.

MOTION:

Senator Ward-Engelking moved that **RS 25247** be sent to print. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Sharon Harrigfeld**, Director of the Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) and serving as Chair for the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) introduced her colleagues for participation in the Idaho Criminal Justice presentation. She referred the Committee to a handout describing the CJC's mission, vision and values to improve the system through collaboration (see attachment 1). The primary theme of the presentation focused on efficiency and effectiveness in developing constructive and meaningful outcomes.

Matt McCarter, State Department of Education (SDE), highlighted the CJC's membership, which is comprised from all three branches of government, private citizens, locally elected officials, state agency directors, the Governor's office, the Superintendent of Instruction's office, and a broad range of individuals. The result is a full collaboration for a safer Idaho.

Sarah Thomas, Administrative Director of the Courts, spoke about the three-year plan for the development of goals and objectives and the formulation of strategies. She said a website is available for the public to review and assess how the Commission is meeting its goals.

Eric Fredrickson, State Appellate Public Defender, outlined how the work is accomplished by subcommittees, which generally consist of members with subject matter expertise. He described the specifics of what the subcommittees do and how they work in collaboration for a safer Idaho.

PRESENTATION: **Ms. Harrigfeld** introduced her colleagues for the update on the DJC. She said the mission of DJC is to develop productive citizens in partnership with communities through juvenile crime prevention, education, rehabilitation and reintegration. She stated that DJC knows the value of education toward this mission.

James Pannell, Education Program Director, DJC described the challenges, solutions and successes for Idaho's unique population of students, illustrating with charts shown on video slides and a handout (see attachment 2). Students receive individualized courses according to each student's needs, goals, interests and abilities. Funding from the SDE provides students with access to Plato Courseware to earn credits and the opportunity to earn workplace certificates. **Mr. Pannell** said outcomes have been positive, with 77 percent earning a high school diploma or GED, 42 percent earning at least one workplace certificate, and 17 percent of those eligible earning college credits while in custody.

PRESENTATION: **Paul Headlee**, Deputy Division Manager, Legislative Services Office reviewed the State Department of Education's budget request, comparing it with the Governor's recommendations (see attachment 3). The requested increase for 2018 is 6.1 percent versus the Governor's recommendation of 5.8 percent.

Committee members asked for clarification on items that included: funding for discretionary requests versus Governor's recommendations: health insurance costs; classroom technology funding; operational versus discretionary funding; transportation; and growth of support units. The Committee will study the budget schedule and, if needed, request additional clarification from Mr. Headlee at the next meeting.

H 0074

Relative to the Public Charter School Commission. Mr. Blake Youde, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs officer, State Board of Education (SBE) reviewed the rationale for **H 0074**. The proposed legislation would provide clarifying language regarding the terms of appointment and the rotation for the appointment of members. Originally, all members were appointed by the Governor. He said in 2013, appointments were changed so they are made by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The rotation of these appointments resulted in three members in a row being appointed by the Governor, until all positions appointed prior to 2013 have been reappointed or new members have been appointed. Following this schedule, each member is then reappointed by the same appointing authority that originally appointed them. This process has caused confusion, and the SBE has been asked to amend the section to clarify the order of appointments.

MOTION: **Senator Nonini** moved to send **H 0074** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Buckner-Webb** will carry the bill on the floor.

H 0075

Relating to Education: Repeal, Amend, Remove a Provision, Provide an Effective Date. Mr. Youde presented **H 0075**. Idaho Code § 33-2006 requires school districts to educate expectant mothers. The section of code is outdated and no longer necessary. With few exceptions, school districts are required to educate students residing within the school district's boundaries, and there is no exception for expectant or delivered mothers. Regardless of a student's parental responsibilities or their expectation of those responsibilities, the student is required to be educated. The proposed legislation would repeal this section of code.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **H 0075** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Winder** will carry the bill on the floor.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary

Jeanne Clayton
Assistant Secretary