MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 03, 2017
TIME: 8:30 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone
ABSENT/EXCUSED: None
GUESTS: Amanda Cox, Future Public School; Brad Petersen, Future Public School; Stacey Walker, Gem Prep: Nampa; Suzanne Metzgar, Future Public School; Josh Femreite, Gem Innovation School; Anthony Warn, Bluum; Jane Wittmeyer, Coalition Charter School; Marg Carianan, ICSN; Blake Youde, SBOE; Chris Yorgason, ICSN; Emily McClure, ICSN; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Karen Echeverria, ISBA; Paul Stark, IEA; Harold Ott, IRSA and IASA;

Chairman VanOrden called the meeting to order at 8:38 am.

HCR 14: Rep. Zollinger presented HCR 14 relating to the questions for civics test given to secondary school students starting with the 2017-2018 school year. He explained this bill will add 25 questions regarding Idaho history to the civics test of 100 questions. The test questions can be spread from 7th to 12th grade or taken at one time, depending on the school district. There is no burden to the schools or cost to the state of Idaho.

Rep. Linden Bateman explained the importance of honoring Idaho by including Idaho history in the civics test and reviewed 25 questions that he created for the test. He said that it is reasonable that the test includes knowledge of government and history for both the United States and the great sovereign state of Idaho. Idaho children deserve to be taught about Idaho’s history beyond the 4th grade where it is part of the curriculum. He spoke of the rich Idaho history when it was a territory, and how it almost went to Washington and Nevada instead of becoming a state. Due to the heroic efforts of Idaho Territory Governor Edward Stevenson, the territory was saved and became the state of Idaho on March 4, 1863.

MOTION: Rep. Kloc made a motion to send HCR 114 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation. Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Toone requested to be recorded as voting NAY. Rep. Zollinger will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 241: Rep. DeMordaunt presented H 241 relating to streamlining the opening procedures for new charter schools by simplifying the process, compressing the time-line and clarifying expectations for schools and authorizers.

Chris Yorgason, ICSN, Emily McClure, ICSN, Brad Petersen, Future Public School, and Stacey Walker, Gem Prep Nampa, spoke in support of H 241, explaining that the application process is tedious, long, and is the most regulated process in the country. It must be simplified for the applicants, and especially for parents counting on quality charter schools to open for their children’s education.

Karen Echeverria, ISBA, and Paul Stark, IEA spoke against H 241, explaining that they were not given sufficient time to read and study the bill before it was presented to the committee. They asked that H 241 be held in committee so they would have time to review it and make possible amendments.
Rep. McDonald made a motion to HOLD H 241 in committee for time certain.


Chairman VanOrden called for a vote on the original motion to HOLD H 241 in committee for time certain. Motion carried by voice vote.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 am.

Representative VanOrden  Ann Tippetts
Chair  Secretary