

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, March 09, 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 Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Upstart. Emily McClure**, Attorney and Lobbyist presented on behalf of the Waterford Institute. **Ms. McClure** referred the Committee to the handouts (see Attachment 1) and reviewed the UPSTART program, which is an in-home school-readiness program using the Waterford Institute's software. The program began approximately five years ago in Utah and was designed to help families who wanted to prepare their four-year-old children for school. Preschool-age children receive an individualized reading, math and science curriculum with an emphasis on reading. The program is particularly beneficial in rural areas where there are no services or when distances and transportation issues limit access to other venues.
- Ms. McClure** outlined the results from Utah's UPSTART academic measurements, pointing out that longitudinal studies show children from the lowest income levels can end up at the same academic place as children from the higher levels, and those gains stay with the children through the 4th grade.
- Senator Winder** asked about the number of Idaho children who currently use UPSTART. **Ms. McClure** said the pilot in Idaho is self-funded, which has limited the program to fewer than 100 children.
- Chairman Mortimer** wondered if parent participation has made a difference in UPSTART achievement. **Ms. McClure** said the greatest difference is always parental involvement, and studies have shown that parents want to support their children if they are given the tools.
- HCR 23** **Stating Legislative Findings and Commemorating the University of Idaho on its 125th Anniversary. Representative Caroline Troy**, District 5, reviewed the history of the Moral Act, which President Lincoln signed into law on July 2, 1862. The Act granted land to each state for the purpose of establishing people's colleges. Thus, the University of Idaho was established before Idaho became a state in 1889.
- Representative Troy** yielded the floor to Michael Ryan, a senior at the University of Idaho, a Senator for the Associate of Students, and a lobbyist. **Mr. Ryan** said the Moral Act played a critical role in establishing the University of Idaho, and the freshman coursework continues to call attention to how the University was originated. **Mr. Ryan** noted the importance of recognizing the University's 125th Anniversary through the Legislature.
- Representative Troy** closed by asking for recommendation to send **HCR 23** to the Senate floor.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **HCR 23** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 106 **Relating to Secondary School Jurisdiction and Accreditation of Residential Schools.** **Blake Youde**, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **H 106**, commenting for the Committee and others that the term "residential" refers to facilities, such as the home of a dormitory or resident hall boarding facility, and not to be confused with individual residences.

The legislation amends Idaho Code § 39-1209 to update the language regarding secondary school accreditation of residential schools. The section pertains to the Child Care Licensing Reform Act and currently contains technical errors regarding the process for accrediting secondary schools. Additionally, this section puts accredited residential schools under the jurisdiction of the State Board and Department of Education. The proposed amendment corrects the technical errors and treats accredited residential schools in the same manner as non-accredited residential schools, leaving them under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health & Welfare.

Mr. Youde said the legislation clarifies that all residential schools are subject to the jurisdiction of the Department of Health & Welfare and are required to submit reports and disclosures to that DHW to ensure the safety of the residential facilities.

MOTION: **Senator Buckner-Webb** moved to send **H 106** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 228 **Relating to Adult Education Online Portal and a Parent Resource Online Portal.** **Duncan Robb**, Chief Policy Advisor, State Department of Education (SDE), presented **H 228**, which expands the educational resources available through Internet-based portals to include Idaho parents, educators and other adult learners as well as existing student resources.

Mr. Robb said that because this work has broadened in scope since the statute was originally enacted, the SDE requires the legislation to be enacted before it can distribute the monies appropriated for this purpose next year. He noted the approved budget also includes \$110,000 in additional monies for services rendered this year, which were rolled into the Central Services portion of the SDE's budget and will be paid for in July 2017. For this reason, the bill carries with it the \$110,000 fiscal note.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **H 228** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to approve the minutes of February 13, 2017. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Ward-Engelking moved to approve the minutes of February 14, 2017. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Buckner-Webb moved to approve the minutes of February 25, 2017. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Chairman Mortimer reminded the Committee that meetings will begin at 2:00 p.m. next week.

ADJOURNED: There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary

Jeanne Clayton
Assistance Secretary