

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 08, 2018

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Ehardt, Kloc (Chilcote), McCrostie, Toone

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Shepherd

**GUESTS:** Jim Nunley, Sportsmen Group; Clark Corbin, Idaho Education News; Matt Compton, Idaho Education Association; Sharon Kiefer, Idaho Fish and Game; Quinn Perry, Idaho School Boards Association; Gidion Tolman, Department of Financial Management

**Chairman VanOrden** called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**H 415:** **Rep. Cheatham** spoke to **H 415**. He said the bill allows students in six through twelfth grade to be absent to play "Taps" for a military funeral and not be counted absent for purposes of average daily attendance funding. Students are required to make up the work missed. He said he asked people leaving military funerals what they thought of when "Taps" was played, and they told him it made them think of patriotism and an urge to connect with the family of the deceased.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Syme** made a motion to send **H 415** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. Cheatham** said the legislation was necessary for schools not to lose funding from the state. In response to questions from the committee, **Chairman VanOrden** said the state uses average daily attendance to determine a school's funding, and students must be at school a certain amount of time to be counted as present. She said if the state goes to an enrollment-based model for funding, legislation like this would not be needed, but it will be some time before the school funding formula is decided. Chairman VanOrden said she supports **H 415**. In response to questions from the committee, Rep. Cheatham said the legislation shows an appreciation for veterans and their families.

In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. DeMordaunt** said students who are family members of a deceased veteran can bring in the funeral program to have their absence excused in the West Ada School District. **H 415** excuses trumpet players not related to the deceased. In response to questions from the committee, **Tim McMurtrey**, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, State Department of Education, said excused absences do not count against the average daily attendance count for funding. **Rep. Kerby** commented that the state should honor the military, and the legislation will only be necessary until the state is no longer using average daily attendance for funding. **Rep. Boyle** commented that the service of veterans should be respected. **Rep. McCrostie** commented that he would support the motion, but he encourages families of veterans to use the musical organizations in the community. This is not just about honoring veterans, but also about teaching young people to honor them, he said. Rep. DeMordaunt said rural districts had expressed a need for this legislation, because there are not enough people in those districts who can play "Taps."

**VOTE ON  
MOTION:**

**Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Cheatham** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chairman VanOrden** said **H 443** would be held to a later date.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

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Representative VanOrden  
Chair

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Jenifer Cavaness-Williams  
Secretary