

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 16, 2018

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman VanOrden called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Chairman VanOrden turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman McDonald**.

H 579: **Rep. VanOrden** spoke to **H 579**. She said the legislation revises four sections of code on sex education which are already in statute. She introduced **Hannah Gayle**, student at Boise State University.

Ms. Gayle spoke in support of **H 579**. She told about her experience of being a teenage mother and going to the Marian Pritchett Memorial School, which serves pregnant and parenting teens. She said the goal of the legislation is to reduce teen pregnancy rates in Idaho. Ms. Gayle gave statistics for Idaho's teen birth rate, and its effects on teens' high school graduation, health, and use of public assistance. Inconsistencies were found between the sex education health standards and Idaho Code, and the inconsistencies can pose problems for school district leaders, she said. Ms. Gayle cited reasons to make the Idaho health education standards for sex education consistent with Idaho Code. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Gayle said the information she received from public education was semi-adequate. She said she thought she would have been involved in different activities, which would not have resulted in pregnancy, if the information had been more complete.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Sarah Fry**, Boise State University faculty, said the current Idaho Statute is inconsistent with health education standards for sex education, and it encourages school districts to not include sex education. She said she felt the inconsistency encourages school districts to not include sex education. States with lower rates of teen pregnancy have more explicit laws, consistent with the health education standards, she added. The legislation is one step of many to address the concern of teen pregnancy in Idaho, said Dr. Fry. She spoke in support of **H 579**.

In response to questions from the committee, **Dr. Fry** said Idaho has the 26th-highest birth rate, not including abortions. From 2014 to 2016, Idaho's abortion rate increased two percent. Dr. Fry said the hope is that families are the primary influence, but not all families choose to discuss sex education. The legislation includes an option for parents to opt-out for their children's participation in sex education classes, if the parents do not like the school district's decision. Dr. Fry said she had not done an in-depth analysis to determine if there is a correlation between the teen pregnancy rates by county and the school districts' sex education programs. The National Conference for State Legislature has made policy recommendations to reduce teen pregnancy, and one recommendation is to focus on groups with the most need, such as rural areas, she said.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Gayle** said she and **Dr. Fry** had decided to focus on legislation first to address the issue of teen pregnancy, but they are also working on a class for teen moms at Boise State University. She said the Marian Pritchett Memorial School uses the same curriculum as the state, as well as teaching parenting and life skills. The school includes a day-care and offers maternity clothes and diapers for students. Ms. Gayle said the first paragraph of the legislation specifies that sex education should start at home. However, not all families discuss sex education, and including classes in school is a support.

Rep. McCrostie spoke in support of **H 579**. He said the intent of the legislation is not to take away the rights of parents. Line four of the old language states school districts may involve parents and school communities. The new language says school districts shall involve parents, which he feels supports parent rights more strongly.

MOTION:

Rep. Amador made a motion to send **H 579** to General Orders.

Rep. Kerby spoke in support of the motion to send **H 579** to General Orders. He said he thinks it is important parents be notified, so they have an opportunity to opt out, and neither the statute nor the legislation make this clear.

Candace Adkins, Nancy Harris, and Joy McKinnon spoke in support of **H 579**, citing lack of parental instruction regarding sex education for some students as being a contributing factor of teen pregnancy.

Julie Lynde and Paul Thompson spoke in opposition of **H 579**. Ms. Lynde said she supported the motion to send **H 579** to General Orders. She said an improvement would be to change the opt-out option to an opt-in option, to make sure parents are informed.

Rep. Ehardt spoke in support of the motion to send **H 579** to General Orders.

In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. VanOrden** said the state legislature determines Idaho Code, and the Office of the State Board of Education is responsible for providing a free, uniform education, and the Board is responsible for creating the education standards. The curriculum is chosen at the local level, she added. The education standards were recently updated, which is why the legislation addresses Idaho Code.

Rep. Toone spoke in support of **H 579**.

In response to questions from the committee, **Rep. VanOrden** said the four sections of Idaho Code regarding sex education were collapsed into the construction of **H 579**.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. McCrostie made a substitute motion to send **H 579** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute Motion failed by a vote of 3 AYE, 12 NAY.** Voting **in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Tway, McCrostie, Toone.** Voting **in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. McDonald, Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Ehardt.** Rep. VanOrden abstained.

**VOTE ON
ORIGINAL
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Shepherd requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** Rep. VanOrden will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chairman McDonald turned the gavel over to **Chairman VanOrden.**

H 566:

Rep. Boyle spoke to **H 566.** She said the legislation provides an alternative route to obtaining administrator certification for charter school administrators. The certification requires the administrator have a bachelor's degree, a criminal background check, a letter from the charter school saying the administrator meets their needs, and three credits of the Frameworks class on teacher evaluations. In response to questions from the committee, Rep. Boyle said those involved in drafting the legislation were the Charter School Commission and **Emily McClure.** In response to questions from the committee, Ms. McClure said the I.E.A. had seen the legislation but did not help draft it.

Terry Ryan, CEO of the Idaho Charter School Network, spoke to **H 566.** He said research shows effective principals are the key to a successful school. The legislation does not force charter schools to hire administrators who have this certification. This is a common practice in other states, said Mr. Ryan, and charter schools are held to a higher standard than other public schools in Idaho, which is the argument for greater flexibility. The administrators of charter schools have advanced education, but they currently must be paid out of the discretionary funds, like a teacher's aide. In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Ryan said most states do not require administrators to have teaching experience. Because they oversee facilities, payroll and budgets, they are seen as CEOs of a business, he added. Mr. Ryan said administrators could be considered instructional leaders, but they could have a team or master teacher to assist them. Running a charter school is not a one-person job, said Mr. Ryan. It requires a team with qualifications unique to the charter school's mission.

MOTION:

Rep. Moon made a motion to send **H 566** to the floor.

Rep. Clow said he supports the legislation.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Ryan** said most charter schools do not have a central office with specialists to assist the administrator, so the duties of a charter school administrator are different than the duties of a traditional administrator. **Rhonda Baines**, Treasure Valley Classical Academy, spoke **in support** of **H 566.** She said charter schools require an administrator attuned in to the charter school's specific model. Just having a traditional administrator certificate is not a qualification, she added. The legislation is imperative to carry out the vision and mission of the Treasure Valley Classical Academy, said Ms. Baines. The person the school would like to hire is currently an administrator at a similar school, but that person does not have an Idaho administrator certificate. In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Ryan said charter school administrators are currently not funded by the state. The school uses philanthropic money to pay their salaries. Charter schools are public schools, he added, and the state should pay for the administrators.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Rep. McDonald made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 566** for time certain, Monday, February 19, 2018. **Substitute Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Representative VanOrden
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary