

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 05, 2018

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Ehardt, McCrostie, Toone, Gannon(5)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Christie Stoll, Idaho College Savings; Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association; Rob Winslow, Idaho Association of School Administrators; Clark Corbin, Idaho Education News

Chairman VanOrden called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Christie Stoll gave a presentation on the IDEAL College Savings Program. She said the program was open to the public in 2001. From the years 2016 to 2017, there was a 16% increase in accounts and a 11% increase in gifting. She explained what the tax-free withdrawals could be used for and how the individuals gifting to student accounts are also eligible for state tax deductions. Individuals can gift up to five years of gifts to a 529 plan at one time. The management fees had been lowered by 33%, said Ms. Stoll, and income tax deductions had increased by 50%. Ms. Stoll explained that legislation conforming with federal 529 law allows for K-12 withdrawals, as well. **H 515** amends tax code to alleviate a double tax on the principle of a contribution and prevents a potential tax loophole by requiring a two-year recapture of funds rolled out to a 529A, she added. In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Stoll** said if a contributor to an account dies, the tax is on the account owner, if the money is used for purposes other than post-secondary education.

DOCKET NO. 47-0101-1701: **Tracie Bent**, State Board of Education, spoke to **Docket No. 47-0101-1701**. She said the rule docket updates the field service policy manual for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The majority of changes were made to make it conform to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, said Ms. Bent, such as updating the definitions. Language was also added to clarify that a case cannot be closed without clear and convincing evidence. The rule docket also increases the amount of payment for an employment plan, and the individual plan for employment is clarified. It updates purchasing requirements and makes updates to supporting services, in compliance with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, said Ms. Bent.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Bent** said the different colors of text are only indicators of when different people at the Board made edits, and the colors have no significance. The reasons companies would hire the clients of the Division is that they are provided some benefits for the accommodations the business makes, and because it is the right thing to do, said Ms. Bent.

Teresa Pitt, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, said there are work incentives to hire individuals with the most significant disabilities. Businesses with certificates are allowed to pay below minimum wage, as long as the individuals are employed, and the Division provides services to the employers, she added. In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Pitt said the individuals working for below minimum wage are not a significant part of the work community. It is a very small percentage, and the Division has seen a downturn in the number of individuals working below minimum wage, because the economy is strong, said Ms. Pitt. With the changes to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Division has seen a significant increase in the number of student-aged individuals they are serving, and the Division is no longer focusing on the amount of individuals they serve but on the quality of service.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 47-0101-1701**.

Rep. Moon said she would not support the motion unless the term "customer" was changed back to "client."

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Moon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

S 1292aa: **Senator Thayn** spoke to **S 1292aa**. He said the bill addresses overload courses and is composed of four parts. Senator Thayn gave the history of the section of Idaho Code addressed by **S 1292aa**. He said one part, enacted in 2011, provides for a scholarship for students who challenge high school classes and graduate early. In 2012, legislation was created to allow for students to complete eight semesters of high school in six semesters, by taking overload and summer classes. In 2013, legislation was enacted which said students who have completed all their senior classes are exempt from taking math their senior year, in order to take dual credit classes. In 2014, when he was a superintendent, Rep. Kerby suggested the state pay for dual credit classes, which was the beginning of the Advanced Opportunities Program in 2017. Page three, line seven of **S 1292aa** says any student who completes grades one through twelve early qualifies for a scholarship, and the school gets paid for 35% of the student's daily average attendance. Subsection eight says if a student fails a course paid for by the state, the student must pay for and pass a course before becoming eligible for Advanced Opportunities again. Page one, line seventeen defines a full-credit load as twelve credits and specifies an overload course must be taken outside of the school day, such as zero hour, night class, or summer, said Senator Thayn. Page two, lines twenty-one through twenty-four, which were not in the original bill, add payment by the state for the costs of testing for industry badges. Page two, lines thirty-two through thirty-eight address one of the governor's concerns, that when students earn credits they should have a goal in mind. For example, BYU, Yale and Stanford do not take dual credits from Idaho, but they do take AP test credits. The bill also provides that a parent may enroll the student in any course, because parents advocated for this provision, said Senator Thayn. **S 1292aa** stipulates the payment must be for 100 level courses or higher, not remedial courses, he added.

In response to questions from the committee, **Senator Thayn** said students can only take dual credit classes from post-secondary institutions in Idaho, because the Advanced Opportunities Funding only pays for credit from Idaho Institutions. If a student takes more than sixteen dual credits, the college advisor helps the student focus on a career goal, said Senator Thayn.

Rep. Kerby said CTE classes are not currently offered for dual credit, because there was resistance at the college level. **S 1292aa** requires students to have a career plan after fifteen post-secondary credits, he said.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to send **S 1292aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to questions from the committee, **Ms. Bent** says the Advanced Opportunities process of awarding money for college continues to be streamlined. One frustration, she said, is determining residency for community colleges. The State Department of Education is working on a process, and there are fewer complaints each year, she added.

In response to questions from the committee, **Senator Thayn** said **S 1292aa** stipulates remedial courses are not eligible for Advanced Opportunities Funds.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

H 501: **Rep. VanOrden** spoke to **H 501**. She said the bill strikes out the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) as one of the measurement tools for measurable student achievement, which is used in teacher evaluations. Rep. VanOrden said she talked to teachers around the state, and there is a concern about using a screening tool from the class as an assessment for teacher performance. The legislative intent of the IRI was to provide teachers with a tool to identify students who need early reading intervention. Using the IRI to assess teacher performance conflicts with this intent, said Rep. VanOrden, and other assessments listed in Idaho Code can be used to assess teacher performance. The State Board of Education and the Literacy Committee are re-designing the IRI, said Rep. VanOrden. It is designed to be a tool used in the classroom to provide early screening, diagnostics, and easy progress monitoring. Using a screening tool for teacher evaluations and placement on the career ladder is unfair, she added.

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to send **H 501** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. VanOrden** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Representative VanOrden
Chair

Jenifer Cavaness-Williams
Secretary