

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, February 22, 2019

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

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Abernathy

**GUESTS:** Dylan Baker, Jennifer Redford, Jeannie Standal, Kristina Taylor and Staci Shaw, Idaho Commission for Libraries; Beth Oppenheimer and Erika Lewis, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children; Karen Echeverria, ISBA; Paul Stark, IEA; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Rob Winslow, IASA; Harold Ott, IRSA/IASA; Gideon Tolman, Division of Financial Management; Marilyn Whitney, SDE; Greg Wilson, Governor's Office; Jody Hendrickx

**Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**RS 26668:** **Rep. Amador** presented **RS 26668**, proposed legislation which he called the start of an important conversation about early childhood learning in Idaho. He noted the percentage of kids living in single-parent households continues to increase and Idaho is one of only four states that does not provide any state funding for pre-K programs. This proposed legislation, the "Idaho School Readiness Act", creates a voluntary, state-supported, early learning framework to get 4 year-olds ready to succeed in kindergarten. Programs would be home- or site-based and any state funding would be matched by local dollars.

**Rod Gramer**, President, Idaho Business for Education, also presented **RS 26668** and noted the percentage of Idaho kids who enter kindergarten unprepared to learn to read is increasing. He explained the State Board of Education would set the standards for what constitutes high-quality, site-based early education. The state would provide 50% of the per child funding for site-based programs and 100% for home-based. Local community collaboratives would be formed by interested businesses and nonprofits to run site-based programs.

In response to Committee questions, **Rep. Amador** stated the vast majority of studies indicate high-quality early education leads to significant gains in kindergarten readiness and social skills. He noted funding would be based upon appropriation and it would be up to the legislature to set educational funding priorities.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to introduce **RS 26668**.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:** **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a substitute motion to return **RS 26668** to the sponsor. She stated this year is not the time to discuss early learning programs, due to the legislature's funding commitments for raising starting teacher salaries and expanding early literacy programs.

**Rep. Berch** spoke in **opposition** to the substitute motion, stating the Committee has the time to have a conversation about the proposed legislation and the education of Idaho's children.

**VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

**Motion carried by voice vote. Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Reps. Berch and McCrostie** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**H 150:**

**Rep. Goesling** presented **H 150**, which permits school boards to enter into executive session with a simple majority vote, if two board seats are vacant.

**Jody Hendrickx**, Chairman of the Board of S.D. 41, Idaho School Boards Association Executive Board Vice President, testified remotely from North Idaho College **in support** of the bill. He stated in the past St. Maries has had trouble filling two board vacancies. As a result, personnel and student expulsion matters that require the board to go into executive session had to be put aside.

**Karen Echeverria**, Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), spoke **in support** of the bill. She noted the bill allows for an exception only when the board has enough vacancies to meet the requirement; it does not cover absences. Superintendents can make immediate decisions regarding the removal of staff or students, but the school board must approve those decisions within thirty days and can only do so while in executive session. She stated boards may have vacant seats due to a recall election or the inability to recruit someone to fill the seat. When the seat cannot be filled by someone within the correct zone, it can be filled by someone in the district at-large.

**MOTION:**

**Vice Chairman Kerby** made a motion to send **H 150** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Goesling** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chairman Clow** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Kerby**.

**RS 26860:**

**Chairman Clow** presented **RS 26860**, which clarifies libraries must filter access to minors of obscene and pornographic material not only through desktop computers, but also through library-provided Wi-Fi access. He stated some small libraries may need financial support to install Wi-Fi filters and suggested funds could be appropriated from within the current levels of support to the Broadband Committee.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 26860**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 26918:**

**Chairman Clow** presented **RS 26918** and stated the bill would ultimately be heard by the House Business Committee. This proposed legislation gives the Barber and Cosmetology Services Licensing Board the authority to approve license renewals for barber and cosmetology schools if their license lapsed due to a late payment. The Board could back date the license so the school would maintain continuous coverage.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to introduce **RS 26918**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Vice Chairman Kerby** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Clow**.

**ADJOURN:**

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

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Erica McGinnis  
Secretary