

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 27, 2019

**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**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:** Randy Dewey, Nampa School District; April Burton, Caldwell School District; Julie Oberle, Tim Hill, Marilyn Whitney and Tim McMurtrey, SDE; Harold Ott, IRSA/IASA; Rob Winslow, IASA; Greg Wilson, Governor's Office; Quinn Perry, ISBA; Kari Overall, IEA; Blake Youde, Idaho Charter School Network; Robyn Lockett, LSO

**Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Goesling** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2019 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Clow** thanked **Reps. Goesling** and **McCrostie** for their work proofreading the minutes this session.

**H 293:** **Rep. Goesling** presented **H 293**, which is a starting step to transition from an attendance based funding model to a student based funding formula. The bill provides fundamental definitions and allows for the gathering and reporting of enrollment data, including for sub-populations. It also requires a legislative review of the funding formula every five years. The bill does not change the current formula or shift any funds.

**Randy Dewey**, Finance Director, Nampa School District, spoke about three areas of concern. First, the definition for "economically disadvantaged" specifically excludes students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch through a school's community eligibility program (CEP). As a result, schools who are not eligible for CEP will have far fewer students counted as economically disadvantaged. Second, he felt the definition for "local salary schedule" mandates a minimum salary for staff on the first professional rung (P1) of the career ladder. Third, he felt it would be unnecessary and technically challenging to report actual district expenditures for each line item and discretionary fund distribution.

**April Burton**, Business Manager, Caldwell School District, echoed the prior concerns and further explained CEP. She suggested removing the CEP exclusion from the definition, to accurately capture the number of kids who should be counted as economically disadvantaged. She noted to be eligible for CEP, schools have to directly certify 40% of their students as receiving some type of public assistance, through the State Department of Health and Welfare.

**Rob Winslow**, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators, stated his support for collecting accurate data, but noted the definitions for "at-risk student" and local salary schedules will require adjustment from schools. He also asked for clarification on the bill's beginning date.

**Marilyn Whitney**, Deputy Superintendent of Communications and Policy, State Department of Education, also echoed prior concerns, but noted there are multiple tools that can be used to determine the economically disadvantaged population. She also stated the reporting timelines may be problematic for districts.

**Quinn Perry**, Policy and Government Affairs Director, Idaho School Boards Association, also asked for clarification on the bill's beginning date and noted schools already post their discretionary expenditures on their websites. She stated the additional financial reporting may be burdensome for small or rural districts.

**Kari Overall**, President, Idaho Education Association, focused on the local salary schedule definition, which she interpreted as mandating a minimum salary for the P1 cell. She noted many districts have already begun salary negotiations and the short rollout of this bill would require immediate change.

**Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, stated a definition alone does not create a statutory requirement. She stated the bill's intent is for districts to report whether they are meeting the specified minimum salaries, but is not a mandate that districts must pay those amounts.

**Blake Youde**, Idaho Charter School Network, stated his concern the Committee was allowing small issues with the bill to become insurmountable. He stated the most important thing is to help students succeed, regardless of how we get there.

**Tim Hill**, Deputy Superintendent of Public School Finance, State Department of Education, stated in order to prevent a legal challenge on differing interpretations of "local salary schedule" the Committee should clarify the definition now. He stated the language referencing starting teacher salaries and P1 minimums could be struck entirely, without affecting other requirements in code.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Marshall** made a motion to send **H 293** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Sen. Lent** was recognized to close testimony on **H 293**. He yielded his time to **Rep. Horman** to address the issues raised during testimony.

**Rep. Horman** stated none of these issues are insurmountable and they could be addressed through negotiated rulemaking. She stated the local salary schedule definition was not meant to be a mandate and would be clarified in the statement of purpose, along with listing the bill's effective date as January 1, 2020. She noted the interim committee recommended using Title I counts to determine economically disadvantaged students, but perhaps a census based count could be used; this could also be addressed through rulemaking.

**Rep. Goesling** was also recognized to close testimony. He stated this bill provides an opportunity to plan for the future without changing the present.

**Rep. Marshall** spoke to his motion, saying while the bill is not perfect, it is sufficiently clear to move forward.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Rep. McCrostie** made a substitute motion to send **H 293** to General Orders. He felt it would be better for the legislature to clarify the issues raised, rather than rely on rulemaking.

**Rep. Kerby** stated there would not be enough time to send a bill to General Orders. He noted this will help start data collection, so he would support the original motion.

**Rep. Berch** said he would oppose both motions. He would rather see a process that addresses the amount of funding and the formula together, rather than simply changing how to divide the existing funds.

**Reps. Boyle, DeMordaunt, Ehardt** and **Raymond** spoke in support of the original motion because the bill is a step in the right direction.

**VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

**Motion failed by voice vote. Rep. McCrostie** requested he be recorded as voting **AYE**.

**VOTE ON  
ORIGINAL  
MOTION:**

**Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. McCrostie and Berch** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Reps. Goesling and Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chairman Clow** recognized the service of Committee Secretary, **Erica McGinnis**.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 am.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Erica McGinnis  
Secretary