

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 12, 2020

TIME: 9:00 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:** None

GUESTS: Emilie Jackson-Edney; Maricela Deveney, IEA; Zephania Mireles, BSU MEPA; Megan Carter, Add the Words; Quinn Perry and Karen Echeverria, ISBA; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Joe Stegner, University of Idaho; Debbie Critchfield, SBOE; Kent Kunz, ISU

MOTION: **Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Abernathy** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2020 and February 10, 2020 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Clay Long, State Administrator, Division of Career and Technical Education, introduced Leadership Institute participants in attendance.

RS 27514: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 27514**, the Fairness in Women's Sports Act, which would continue to provide opportunities for girls and women who want to play sports, by ensuring a level playing field.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to introduce **RS 27514**.

Rep. Ehardt clarified this proposed legislation would prohibit boys and men from competing on girls' and women's teams, as determined physiologically, chromosomally and hormonally.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a substitute motion to return **RS 27514** to the sponsor. He stated this is not a top priority among education issues.

Reps. Marshall and **DeMordaunt** spoke **in opposition** to the substitute motion and stated equality in sports is a very important issue.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Substitute motion failed by voice vote.**

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: **Rep. McCrostie** spoke **in opposition** to the original motion, arguing this proposed legislation promotes the notion that trans girls are not real girls.

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. McCrostie requested he be recorded as voting **NAY**.

RS 27378C1: **Karen Echeverria**, Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association, presented **RS 27378C1**, regarding school district excision. When a community or subdivision wants to excise themselves from one school district and annex themselves into another, currently only those in the area being excised can vote on this action. This proposed legislation will allow taxpayers in the district being left and the district being joined to vote. The proposal must be approved by the voters in both areas in order to be approved. She noted this proposed legislation was brought last year and approved by the House, but was not heard in the Senate due to deadlines.

MOTION: **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to introduce **RS 27378C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 27574: **Rep. Amador** presented this proposed legislation which requests the Legislative Council form an interim committee to study higher education funding. He noted the Governor has expressed a desire to create a working group on this topic.

MOTION: **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to introduce **RS 27574**.

In response to Committee questions, **Rep. Amador** argued as the source of funding, it is critical for the Legislature to take a leading role in this issue, rather than simply joining the Governor's working group. He noted nonlegislative members of the interim committee may be appointed by the cochairs, thus providing an avenue for the State Board of Education to participate.

Rep. Marshall stated he would **support** the motion, but he did not want this interim committee to preempt discussions of an interim committee to study content standards.

Rep. Goesling spoke **in opposition** to the motion, stating the State Board is capable of forming a group and making recommendations on their own, without expenditure of legislative funds and time.

Rep. McCrostie spoke **in support** of the motion, noting other stakeholders can testify during a bill hearing about these concerns.

Rep. Boyle spoke **in opposition** to the motion, saying if the State Board is going to study this issue they will include legislators, so a separate interim committee would divide the Legislature's efforts.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Mendive, Shepherd, Boyle, Moon and Goesling** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

H 395: **Rep. Amador** presented **H 395**. Currently, Lewis-Clark State College (LCSC) is limited by statute to only offer up to four-year programs. This bill would remove that restriction, but the State Board would still approve any programming at the graduate level. The impetus for this legislation are employer needs for nurses in North Idaho.

Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, President, Lewis-Clark State College, also presented **H 395**. She provided a history of LCSC and the many iterations it has gone through, with various program restrictions in place over the years. She stated the bill would simplify the statutory language and empower the State Board to better leverage considerations of education needs throughout the state. The resources and facilities to expand the nursing program to the graduate level are in place, so no new resources would be required. She testified this bill does not create competition between the colleges and universities, but helps each institution to play their part.

Joe Stegner, Special Assistant to the President, University of Idaho, testified that the University has no position on this bill because it does not affect them. He stated upper degree programs are critical to northern Idaho and encouraged additional help, from any source, to allow nursing students to get advanced degrees in the area.

In response to Committee questions, **Dr. Pemberton** explained many hospitals require nurses to have at least a bachelor's degree. With movement to increasing levels of hospital-based care, graduate degrees become more important.

MOTION: **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to send **H 395** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Marshall argued when an institution moves to offer graduate-level courses, it requires continually increasing resources. He stated there are many graduate nursing courses across the country and LCSC may be better served by focusing on offering bachelor's degrees.

Rep. DeMordaunt spoke **in support** of the motion and expressed appreciation for this response to business demands.

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

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary