

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 13, 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: Kaliko Oligo, Katy Lawrence and Stephanie Lewis, ACT, Inc; Blake Youde, Idaho Charter School Network; Jason Kreizenbeck, Lobby Idaho; Quinn Perry, ISBA; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Harold Ott, Rural Schools

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2020 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1238: **Rep. DeMordaunt** presented **S 1238**. Idaho currently requires all students to pass the citizenship exam as a high school graduation requirement. This bill would exempt students taking an advanced civics course with an associated college-credit-bearing exam, such as AP or IB, from this requirement. It also targets professional development dollars for teachers to be trained in civics education instruction.

MOTION: **Rep. Moon** made a motion to send **S 1238** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. McCrostie spoke in support of the motion, saying this seems like a commonsense change and reduces the testing burden on students.

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

RS 27582: **Blake Youde**, representing the Idaho Charter School Network, presented **RS 27582**, which requires charter schools to end their fiscal year with 15 days' cash on hand. It provides a school one year to remedy the situation and establishes a timeline so the school will not close mid-year.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Youde** confirmed the proposed legislation excludes virtual schools, in part because their students would not be displaced by a mid-year closure. He stated the Public Charter School Commission requires 30 days' cash on hand for the first two years of operation and the previous requirement was 3% cash on hand, which equates to approximately 9 days.

MOTION: **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to introduce **RS 27582. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 27635: **Blake Youde**, representing the Idaho Charter School Network, presented **RS 27635**. Charter schools accept all students, but some schools have programs specifically designed for certain populations. The proposed legislation would allow charters the option to give additional weight in the school entrance lottery to students living in poverty, those who are homeless or in foster care, children with disabilities, English language learners and at-risk students.

MOTION: **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to introduce **RS 27635**, stating it can be challenging for schools to serve a specific population with no control over the lottery.

Mr. Youde stated he would research the maximum weighting factor allowed and would discuss that at the bill hearing.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote.

Jason Kreizenbeck provided an introduction on behalf of his client, ACT, Inc.

Katherine Lawrence, Director of State Government Relations, ACT, discussed the company's footprint in Idaho and announced the ACT test will now be available online on national test days and students will be allowed to take a section-specific retest.

Kaliko Oligo, Director of State Partnerships, ACT, discussed how they measure career readiness, including the National Career Readiness Certificate. Students taking the pre-ACT receive a career interest inventory and schools can use an aggregate-level report to determine areas in need of further instruction.

Ms. Lawrence responded to questions about the decreasing use of standardized tests in college admissions and warned this could lead to grade inflation. She stated ACT works with communities to identify student needs and provide appropriate resources.

Chairman Clow recognized the service of Legislative Page **Catherine Menlove**, who has been assigned to the Committee for the first half of the session.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary