DATE: Monday, March 02, 2020
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: Reps. DeMordaunt and Marshall
GUESTS: Misty Swanson, ISBA; Tracie Bent, OSBE; Harold Ott, Rural Schools

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

MOTION: Rep. Raymond made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2020 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

RS 27860: Rep. Raymond presented RS 27860, which combines elements of H 481 and H 470. The proposed legislation does not add new monies, it simply changes the distribution process of the "Content and Curriculum" education line item. It creates a digital content and curriculum fund in the state treasury, with the dollars distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to local education agencies (LEA). The maximum distribution amount is $50,000. The monies will be used to provide digital content and curriculum that impacts student achievement and improves performance; funds may also be spent on academic text support systems. One or more LEAs may apply to receive funding and must show they have the necessary technology infrastructure in place and explain how the distribution will be used.

MOTION: Rep. McCrostie made a motion to introduce RS 27860.

In response to Committee questions, Rep. Raymond clarified that under the current formula, some districts receive more than $50,000, but the average amount is $3,000-4,000. The proposed legislation will improve opportunities for more districts to get more funding. He stated the application process will not require technical training, making it more accessible to rural and remote districts. He said he would further discuss "character education" mentioned in the proposed legislation.

Vice Chairman Kerby and Rep. McCrostie spoke in support of the motion.

Rep. Berch spoke in opposition to the motion, saying he did not support the shifting of dollars among LEAs, rather than increasing investment.

VOTE ON MOTION: Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Moon and Berch requested to be recorded as voting NAY.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 am.

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Representative Clow                              Erica McGinnis
Chair                                               Secretary