

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Friday, March 06, 2020
- TIME:** 8:00 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:** Rep. Ehardt
- GUESTS:** Kurt Liebich, Idaho Business for Education; Deni Hoehne, Idaho Workforce Development Council; Tracie Bent, OSBE; Terry Ryan, Bluum; Alex LaBeau, IACI
- Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Raymond** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2020 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- S 1329:** **Sen. Lent** presented **S 1329**, which aims to bolster Career Technical Education (CTE) by improving districts' ability to hire and retain qualified teachers. The bill proposes to value the business experience of teacher candidates coming from the private sector and place them on the career ladder accordingly. It also reduces the complexity and length of time to earn a standard occupational certificate.
- Clay Long**, State Administrator, Division of CTE, also presented **S 1329**. He explained the two different avenues to becoming a CTE instructor and stated the InSpIRE program avenue is transitioning to a 2.0 version. The new version is meant to be a yearlong program and is individualized based on what skill sets the teacher candidate already possesses; those areas will not have to be retaken through the core teacher standards. The program will provide a mentor for the entire year. **Sen. Lent** noted this is a program redesign, meant to improve delivery and include online content delivery.
- Committee members commented with concern that both pathways place onerous requirements on people coming from industry. They asked if there had been discussion on capping the number of hours required to complete the pathway and earn the standard occupational certificate. **Mr. Long** emphasized that InSpIRE 2.0 is individualized, so as candidates have time, they can work to complete the requirements. He noted the program is an effort to provide an option where the candidate does not have to pay for teacher certification themselves.
- Kurt Liebich**, Vice Chairman, Idaho Business for Education, spoke **in support** of the bill. He said the state needs to be laser focused on CTE because that's where the jobs are. The state needs to show students a pathway to a career while they're still in high school. He felt the bill supports the development and expansion of CTE programs by making it easier to attract and retain teachers from industry.
- Deni Hoehne**, Executive Committee member, Idaho Workforce Development Council (WDC), also spoke **in support** of recognizing industry experience for those transitioning to education. The Council is keenly aware that schools have trouble finding CTE teachers; the best way to address this is to increase teacher pay by placing people on the career ladder. She stated in her experience, those coming from industry prefer the InSpIRE program over taking university courses to earn their teaching certification.

Terry Ryan, Board Chair of Idaho Charter School Network, CEO of Bluum, spoke **in support**. By allowing districts to pay CTE instructors a more competitive salary and better recognizing their industry experience, the bill helps get educators in front of students who need them most.

Alex LaBeau, President, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry (IACI), spoke **in support**, saying workforce is their top priority issue. The flexibility for industry professionals to get into the classroom fits with the direction the WDC, the State Board of Education and IACI are all moving in. He noted this legislation is only one step in the process of increasing flexibility and providing students more opportunity to interact with industry professionals.

Sen. Lent was recognized to close testimony. He said many students in Idaho are not being served by the current system and current actions will affect many of their futures.

MOTION:

Rep. DeMordaunt made a motion to send **S 1329** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, was called upon to answer questions about how people will be placed on the career ladder. She stated those who, based on their experience, will be placed on the professional rung, will be placed there prior to receiving the professional endorsement. Those placed on the residential rung will have to earn the professional endorsement in order to move to the professional rung. She noted clarifying language will need to be added to the section of Administrative Rules regarding endorsements.

Rep. Boyle stated she hopes industry representatives will be included in the rulemaking process, to ensure the requirements can be met.

Rep. DeMordaunt spoke to her motion, saying this bill increases access for students to CTE.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Boyle and Kerby will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Wendi Secrist, Executive Director, Idaho WDC, presented on their work, focusing on the theme of partnership. She discussed the LEADER initiative, which stands for Learn, Do, Earn. She discussed four big goals for the workforce system: improve public awareness and access, coordinate business services across employers to streamline, serve rural and remote communities, and develop career pathways and sector partnerships. She noted the low unemployment rate has allowed the Council to work with populations that have had less opportunity, such as inmates. She discussed the Workforce Development Training Fund and the types of grants offered.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary