DATE: Monday, March 09, 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, Ehardt and Abernathy
GUESTS: Karen Echeverria, ISBA

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

S 1278: Sen. Ward-Engelking presented S 1278, which changes the reimbursement rate schools and districts receive for offering driver education programs. The reimbursement fund comes from driver's license fees and the balance has grown exponentially, but the reimbursement rate has not changed since 1996. She noted schools offer many programs to ensure student safety and wellbeing and in rural areas there are likely no private companies offering driver training. The rate increase will still leave a cash balance of over $3 million in the fund each year.

Karen Echeverria, Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), also presented S 1278. The bill originated from an ISBA resolution. The bill will increase the reimbursement rate by $25, to $150 per student. Students pay an average of $173 to take driver education and local education agencies subsidize the programs by nearly $260,000. She noted students will still be able to learn from a parent, instead of completing a driver education program.

Sen. Ward-Engelking answered questions about the fiscal note, saying the fund currently has a balance of $4.9 million; she will revise the fiscal note to add clarity. She stated this bill does not allow private companies to be reimbursed. She stated the bill will help students and their parents save some money.

MOTION: Rep. Boyle made a motion to send S 1278 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation. Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Moon and Wisniewski requested to be recorded as voting NAY. Rep. Boyle will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

Representative Clow
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary