DATE: Friday, March 13, 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: Rep. Goesling
GUESTS: Trinity Nicholson, Panhandle Special Needs; John Watts, Idaho Central Credit Union; Christine Pisani and Tracy Warren, Developmental Disabilities Council; Bill Benkula, WDB, Inc.; Senator Dean M. Mortimer; Hannah Liedkie, Opportunities Unlimited, Inc.; Maureen Stokes, Witco

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

MOTION: Rep. Abernathy made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2020 and March 6, 2020 meetings. Motion carried by voice vote.

H 624: Greg Wilson, Senior Policy Advisor for Education, Governor's Office, presented H 624, a trailer bill to H 523. It strengthens and clarifies reporting requirements for professional and advanced professional performance criteria, especially the number of students meeting proficiency goals. It sets a deadline for the completion of teacher evaluation audits by the State Department of Education and also sunsets the Master Educator Premiums program; teachers who have already applied will still receive their awards. Now that the third rung of the career ladder has been built out, the program is no longer needed.

MOTION: Vice Chairman Kerby made a motion to send H 624 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Reps. Goesling and DeMordaunt will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1330aa: Sen. Mortimer presented S 1330aa, which codifies the Extended Employment Services (EES) program and states how it will be administered. Codification will help give direction to the State Board of Education and Division of Vocational Rehab on how to administer the program. He stated EES is extremely important to our most vulnerable populations. The bill provides definitions; establishes EES in the State Board, under the direction of the Division; states eligibility is subject to available funding; and makes clear that EES is the payer of last resort.

Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, said in the past the Board has struggled to interpret legislative intent, so it is important to codify EES to provide clear direction on what the legislature wants for the program. She stated the original bill was based on the ideal of how the Division wanted to administer the program, but they could not come to an agreement with all the stakeholders. The amendments include that EES is the payer of last resort and expands the services available.

Sen. Mortimer stated as far as possible, the bill tries to maintain the status quo. He agreed it is compromise legislation, so some stakeholders don't like some parts of the bill.
Trinity Nicholson, Executive Director, Panhandle Special Needs; Hannah Lieddie, Opportunities Unlimited, Inc.; and Maureen Stokes, President and CEO, Witco, spoke in support of the bill. They said this allows for growth based on individual needs and is an Idaho solution to codify an important program.

Tracy Warren, Program Specialist, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities; and Bill Benkula, WDB, Inc., spoke in opposition. They stated employment beyond facilities-based work should be an option and expressed concern that a provision to pay minimum wage is not included in the bill. They argued the amended bill maintains services which need improvement and testified not all stakeholders were included in the process.

Sen. Mortimer was recognized to close testimony. He said he does not think the bill restricts other opportunities and stated the original bill was not collaborative. He tried to address many of the concerns, but felt minimum wage was better to address another year. He stated the bill is important to codify the EES program and give a starting point.

**MOTION:** Rep. Marshall made a motion to send S 1330aa to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.

Reps. Ehardt, Raymond, McCrostie and Moon spoke in support of the motion. They thanked Sen. Mortimer for his efforts and spoke approvingly of the EES program.

Rep. Berch spoke in opposition to the motion, saying he did not think the bill should carry a do pass recommendation because it is last minute and there is concern not all stakeholders were included.

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

**SCR 128:** Rep. DeMordaunt presented SCR 128, which encourages teaching personal finance in schools. She acknowledged Tony Hilde and Joe Gossi, teachers at Eagle High School, for their work in this area.

**MOTION:** Rep. Marshall made a motion to send SCR 128 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Rep. DeMordaunt will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**SCR 122:** Vice Chairman Kerby presented SCR 122, which suggests the State Board of Education and State Department of Education place more emphasis on career technical education (CTE) in high school graduation requirements. He noted only 4% of dual credit earned is for CTE and encouraged looking at other states who have both foundational and personalized graduation requirements.

Sen. Thayn said this supports the direction the Board is already moving in.

**MOTION:** Rep. Marshall made a motion to send SCR 122 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Vice Chairman Kerby will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 am.

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Representative Clow
Chair

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Erica McGinnis
Secretary

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
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