

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 293

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 10, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1029, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING REIMBURSEMENT FOR ELIGIBLE EDUCATION EXPENSES; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND PROVIDING A SUNSET DATE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 10, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-1029, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-1029. REIMBURSEMENT FOR ELIGIBLE EDUCATION EXPENSES. (1) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Board" means the state board of education.

(b) "Eligible education expenses" means:

(i) Computer hardware, internet access, or other technological devices or services that are primarily used to meet a participant's educational needs;

(ii) Tuition or fees at a private school;

(iii) Tutoring;

(iv) Textbooks, curriculum, or other instructional materials, including educational software and applications;

(v) Therapies, including but not limited to occupational, behavioral, physical, speech-language, and audiology therapies, or other services or therapies specifically approved by the board;

(vi) Supplemental education services; or

(vii) Other education expenses approved by the board.

(c) "School board" means a school district board of trustees or the board of directors of a public charter school.

(2) The board shall establish and administer a program in which the state department of education shall distribute a payment from the public schools budget to the parent or guardian of a student, upon request of such parent or guardian, if the following conditions are satisfied:

(a) The student is enrolled in a school district or a public charter school for a particular school year;

(b) During such school year, the school board does not provide full-time, in-person instruction on school premises for a minimum of four (4) days per week, excluding holidays, weekends, and other days when school would not ordinarily be in session; and

(c) The parent or guardian withdraws the student from enrollment because full-time, in-person instruction as described in paragraph (b) of this subsection is not available.

(3) A payment distributed pursuant to this section shall be equal to the average amount of state funds appropriated per student during the previ-

1   ous school year, including funds appropriated pursuant to section 33-1018,  
2   Idaho Code, prorated based on the length of time the student is enrolled in  
3   public school during the school year. The state general fund distribution to  
4   a school district or a public charter school shall be reduced by the amount  
5   distributed to the parents or guardians of students who withdraw from such  
6   school district or public charter school. A parent or guardian shall use  
7   such payment to cover eligible education expenses for the withdrawn student  
8   during the remainder of the school year and shall verify such use according  
9   to a process established by the board. Any moneys distributed under this  
10   section that are not used for eligible education expenses shall be returned  
11   to the board and deposited in the public school income fund.

12         SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
13   declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its  
14   passage and approval or April 1, 2021, whichever is later.

15         SECTION 3. The provisions of Section 1 of this act shall be null, void,  
16   and of no force and effect on and after July 1, 2022.