

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 28, 2021

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Den Hartog, Woodward, Lent, Johnson, Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Thayn** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Wanda Quinn**, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, for a term commencing May 12, 2020 and expiring May 12, 2024.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Sherrilynn Bair**, of Firth, Idaho, to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission, for a term commencing May 12, 2020, and expiring May 12, 2024.

PRESENTATION: **Sherri Ybarra**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, introduced Idaho's 2020-2021 teacher of the year, Jorge Pulleiro. **Mr. Pulleiro** addressed the committee. **Mr. Pulleiro** spoke of the need to be involved and interested in the lives of his students.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Nelson** moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2021. **Senator Cook** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Thayn passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Crabtree.

S 1039 **Relating to Education; Creates a Workforce Readiness High School Diploma.** **Chairman Thayn** outlined the scope of the bill.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** voiced a concern about the term "workplace readiness", saying it might give students a sense that if they attain this high school diploma, they are ready to go into the workforce without needing to go to college. **Chairman Thayn** said based on reporting from Idaho Career and Technical Education (CTE), 94 percent of CTE concentrators graduated high school. Of those, 59 percent went on to college, versus only 38 percent who did not participate in CTE courses. This diploma would allow more students to participate in CTE courses. **Senator Woodward** asked about the wording in Sections 1a and 1b. **Clay Long**, State Administrator, Idaho Career Technical Education, took the podium and said the language takes into account the assessments all students take: the technical skills test, the workplace readiness test, as well as several skills assessments. **Senator Woodward** asked about the number of students in the skill stack and what is the utilization of that. **Heather Luchte**, Director of Performance Management, Idaho Department of Career and Technical Education, took the podium and said 5,000 secondary students earned badges last year. **Senator Woodward** asked what the ongoing maintenance fees were for skills stack. **Ms. Luchte** said the cost of maintenance was \$4,000, and an additional \$20,000 was allocated for program enhancements last year. **Senator Nelson** asked about the language used on lines

23 and 24 about practical math and English. **Mr. Long** said CTE instructors are able to align content standards from those areas into their instruction.

MOTION: **Senator Lent** moved to send **S 1039** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 28304 **Relating to Education; Creates a Separate Advanced Opportunity Program for Students Who Attend Private Schools.** **Kate Haas**, attorney with Kestrel West, on behalf of Bishop Kelly High School, outlined the scope of the bill.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** mentioned that, according to the Idaho Constitution, no public funding can be used for private school students, and thus wondered how would the money be distributed. **Ms. Haas** said the money for dual credit courses would be distributed to the interested students via an account held by the schools, but not to the schools nor students directly. Funding would be limited to \$750 per student to be used for taking dual credit courses only.

MOTION: **Senator Johnson** moved to send **RS 28304** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 28338 **Relating to Education; Creates a Framework for Parents to Request an Alternative Curriculum Within a Regular Public School if at Least Parents From 24 Students Request Accommodation.** **Chairman Thayn** outlined the bill for the Committee.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Den Hartog** asked if this bill would allow a teacher to create a curriculum helpful to students. **Chairman Thayn** said it will allow for both teachers and parents to create curriculum. **Senator Ward-Engelking** sought clarification since this bill seems similar to current magnet school charters. **Chairman Thayn** took note of the concern. **Senator Nelson** asked for a clearer picture at the print hearing of how the fiscal note could be zero since new curriculum development normally has a cost associated with it.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 28338** to print. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Crabtree passed the gavel to Chairman Thayn.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Florence Lince
Secretary