

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, February 11, 2021
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Den Hartog, Woodward, Lent, Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Johnson
- 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 3:02 p.m.
- RS 28415** **Relating to Workforce Development; Creates the Idaho Promise Mentor Program to Build Relationships with Idaho High School Students, Their Families, Veterans and Other Adults to Help Them Overcome Financial Barriers to Earning Postsecondary Apprenticeships, Job Training Certificates and Associate of Applied Science Degrees.** **Senator Burgoyne** outlined the scope of the bill and stood for questions.
- DISCUSSION:** **Vice Chairman Crabtree** asked why this is an education bill. **Senator Burgoyne** said this bill is a bridge between education, commerce and human resources. **Vice Chairman Crabtree** asked if this bill was vetted by the State Board of Education. **Senator Burgoyne** said the State Board will not take a stance on this bill.
- MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **RS 28415** to print. **Senator Nelson** seconded the motion.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Cook** asked for clarification on the costs associated with this bill. **Senator Burgoyne** said he sees the potential for 400 volunteer mentors throughout the State of Idaho helping to make this program succeed. Funding would initially come from grant money and gifts, and if the program is a success, then appropriations may be requested.
- VOICE VOTE:** The motion to send **RS 28415** to print passed by **voice vote**.
- DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Thayn** informed the Committee that he will attend the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC) meeting on February 17. He asked the Committee for a list of budget items to bring.
- Some of the topics the Committee asked to be brought forward were:
- The need for more money for higher education;
 - School facility funding seems to be inadequate, since many schools are still using bond money to pay for repairs;
 - Ninety-two of the States 115 school districts are collecting supplemental levies this year, to keep the doors open; the level of funding needs to be reviewed to reduce the number of levies being used;
 - Learning gaps among junior and high school students have not been addressed;

- Summer reading and math should be opened up to students not only in K-3 but K-12 to help students catch up;
- Data on how districts spent federal money, what it was spent on, and how their expenditures benefited the students should be provided;
- Career ladder funding needs to be brought back to pre-COVID-19 pandemic standing so teachers continue on the career ladder;
- Base funding should be restored;
- Funding for H 22 is needed; and
- Instruction from JFAC on what virtual schools can expect moving forward is needed.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Florence Lince
Secretary