

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 01, 2021

**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrostie, Berch, Toone

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. DeMordaunt

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**H 222:** **Vice Chairman Kerby** presented legislation to improve school productivity. The State Board of Education (SBOE) will recognize and incentivize teachers and administrators whose students demonstrate improvement. The continuous improvement plans created by schools will include the metrics used to increase professionals on the career ladder. If goals are not met, strategies will be addressed by a committee.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to send **H 222** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Berch** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. Rep. Kerby will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 28686:** **Blake Youde**, Idaho Charter School Network (ICSN), presented legislation to make corrections to the educational professional career ladder. Certified teachers from a private school who would choose to teach at a public school would be treated the same as certified teachers coming from out of state.

**Tracie Bent**, SBOE, presented the technical code aspects of the legislation, that the professional endorsement would be applied to a teacher's years of experience. In answer to committee questions, Ms. Bent clarified certified experience is counted as which ever position was held the longest, not by the number of certificates held.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Berch** made a motion to return **RS 28686** to the sponsor. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 248:** **Rep. Furniss** presented legislation to secure employment benefits for all employees of Idaho Public Schools. Rural school districts currently struggle to compete with benefits urban school districts. The legislation would incentivize teachers to work in the cities in which they live and reduce commuting for benefits. Enrolled schools would be required to stay in the plan for two years. Rep. Furniss stated schools would not have a reduction in benefit allotment from the State and although the premiums might be higher individually, the additional volume of employees should balance it out. An analysis conducted by Rep. Furniss concluded teachers and classified employees would see significantly higher take-home pay.

In response to committee questions, **Vice Chairman Kerby** discussed how the legislation identifies minimum rungs on the professional career ladder as applied to benefits, as there is a higher cost to the school districts for benefits. School districts have the one-time option to keep professionals on the same rung as the previous year the first year the higher benefits are offered. In answer to committee questions, he stated teachers could see an increase in take-home pay if the payroll benefit deduction is lower.

**Fred Birnbaum**, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified **in opposition** to **H 248** due to his calculated negative financial impact to the taxpayers.

**Karen Echeverria**, Idaho School Boards Association, spoke **in support** of **H 248** due to the need and flexibility of the benefit optional participation.

**Andy Grover**, IASA, spoke **in support** of **H 248** in order to assist rural schools.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Toone** made a motion to send **H 248** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 12 AYE and 2 NAY and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Boyle, Mendive, Ehardt, Marshall, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrosite, Berch, Toone, Vice Chairman Kerby and Chairman Clow. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Moon and Wisniewski. Rep. DeMordaunt was absent/excused.** Rep. Furniss will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 250:** **Rep. McCrostie** presented legislation to expand the types of educational expenses eligible for the Advanced Opportunities Grant, including the college entrance administrative exam fees. Committee members had questions as to whether the legislation could be interpreted to cover more than exam fees.

**Rep. Horman** discussed the legislation specifically and noted only one exam per student is covered, not retakes.

**Jamie Richmond** testified **in support** of **H 250**.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Berch** made a motion to send **H 250** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST:** **Chairman Clow** made a unanimous consent request to extend adjournment beyond 10:30 a.m. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Wisniewski** made a substitute motion to send **H 250** to General Orders. **Motion carried by voice vote.** Rep. McCrostie will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Christine Reynolds  
Secretary