

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 04, 2021

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Blake Youde, Idaho Charter School Network (ICSN); Andy Grover, Idaho Association Of School Administrators (IASA); Karen Echeverria, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Julie Oberle, Chief Financial Officer, State Department of Education (SDE); Tim McMurtrey, Deputy Superintendent of Operations (SDE); Tracie Bent, Chief of Planning and Policy, State Board of Education (SBOE); Rep. Wendy Horman; Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent, Communications and Policy, SDE

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

RS 28751: **Rep. Galloway** presented legislation to allow educational expenses to be reimbursed when schools are closed. The amount distributed to a student's caregiver reduces the funds distributed to the school in which the student was originally enrolled.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 28751**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Toone, McCrostie** and **Berch** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

H 280: **H 280** was not in the possession of the committee on March 4th therefore any discussion or motions held on **H 280** on March 4th were out of order.

Chairman Clow turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Kerby**.

H 264: **Chairman Clow** presented legislation to freeze facilities funding for charter schools with an updated funding formula. The legislation also removes the risk of a decrease in facilities funding if school funding decreases. In answer to committee questions, Chairman Clow stated charter school funding has increased each year, however if there was an adverse event which creates a decrease in funding, charter schools would see dramatic cuts to facilities funding.

Blake Youde, ICSN, testified in support of **H 264** because freezing the formula allows a school to budget with increased predictability and have better access to financing.

MOTION: **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to send **H 264** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Chairman Clow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 265: **Chairman Clow** presented legislation to change current school transportation funding which is currently calculated by miles driven the previous school year. In the event of an emergency which closes schools, schools will be protected by being able to use the last typical school year as a basis for funding.

MOTION: **Rep. Yamamoto** made a motion to send **H 265** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Andy Grover testified in support of H 265.

Karen Echeverria testified in support of H 265.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote. Chairman Clow will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chairman Kerby turned the gavel over to **Chairman Clow**.

RS 28756:

Rep. Horman introduced legislation to allow the Strong Students Grant and Strong Students Scholarship programs to pay for alternative schooling outside of traditional public schools. In answer to committee questions, Rep. Horman stated recipients would be required to apply and be held accountable if asked to verify how funds are spent.

MOTION:

Rep. Mendive made a motion to introduce **RS 28756** and recommend it be sent directly to the second reading calendar.

Reps. Mendive, Yamamoto, Boyle, DeMordaunt and Ehardt spoke in support of **RS 28756**.

Reps. McCrostie, Shepherd and Toone spoke in opposition to **RS 28756**.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE and 5 NAY.**
Voting in favor of the motion: **Reps. Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Yamamoto, and Chairman Clow.**
Voting in opposition to the motion: **Reps. Shepherd, McCrostie, Berch, Toone and Vice Chairman Kerby.** **Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 28741:

Rep. DeMordaunt presented legislation requiring schools to notify parents there are options for vaccine compliance, and to inform them there are possible vaccine exemptions. She stated the legislation is respectful of parents' rights.

ORIGINAL MOTION:

Rep. Yamamoto made a motion to introduce **RS 28741** and recommend it be sent directly to the second reading calendar.

In answer to committee questions, **Rep. DeMordaunt** stated it would not have a fiscal impact or even cost more paper, it only adds a few lines to paperwork already printed for parents.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. McCrostie made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 28741**. **Substitute motion failed by voice vote.**

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. McCrostie requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Christine Reynolds
Secretary