

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 10, 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: Tracie Bent, Chief Planning & Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBOE), Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent, Communications & Policy, State Department of Education (SDE); Matt Freeman, Executive Director SBOE; Scott Woolstenhulme, Superintendent, Bonneville School District; Senator Cook, District 30; Misty Swanson, Chief Deputy, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA); Tim McMurtrey, Deputy Superintendent, Operations (SDE); Ryan Cantrell, Idaho Rural Schools Association (IRSA); Dr. Eric Studebaker, SDE; Quinn Perry, ISBA; Jenn Thompson, Director, Public Charter School Commission (PCSC); Representative Nate, District 34

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Galloway** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2 and 3, 2021 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1115: **Rep. Boyle** presented legislation to improve Charter Commission policies. The Commission will hire its own executive director and staff. Commissioners will be appointed by the Governor, with a regional balance.

Matt Freeman, SBOE, discussed the clarifications to the language provided by the legislation. In answer to committee questions, Mr. Freeman stated the SBOE consulted the Charter School Network and other stakeholders prior to updating the language.

Jenn Thompson, PCSC, answered committee questions regarding the changing framework and revised language to adjust requirements to the year of operation and improve the quality of reports.

MOTION: **Rep. Moon** made a motion to send **S 1115** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1116aa: **Senator Cook** introduced legislation to provide some latitude to the current law which requires school expulsion for bringing weapons to school, providing situational decisions to be made by the school board. The legislation still aligns with the minimum requirements of the Federal Gun-Free Schools Act. Sen. Cook provided multiple examples of young students expelled for minor errors in judgement.

Scott Woolstenhulme, Superintendent, discussed slight errors in judgement made by students with permanent consequences. He provided an example of a student who tried not to break the rules and was still expelled from the district.

Misty Swanson, ISBA, and **Eric Studebaker** spoke in support of **S 1116aa** due to the request of the Bonneville School District Board and other school boards who would prefer to review non-gun situations on a case-by-case basis.

Quinn Perry, ISBA, stated the locally-elected school board must legally be the deciding factor to deny a student an education.

In answer to committee questions, **Tracie Bent**, SBOE, referred to the section of code which defines deadly weapons and identifies pocket knives with blades less than two-and-a-half inches in length as exclusion. This change would address many of the younger students' infractions.

Rep. Berch, Vice Chairman Kerby, Rep. McCrostie and Rep. Wisniewski spoke in support of **S 1116aa**.

MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a motion to send **S 1116aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Marshall** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1043AA: **Rep. Nate**, District 34, presented legislation to protect student privacy by allowing school boards to enter executive session with parents and students when complaints against students are discussed. It also allows a board's decision to be made in executive session for privacy reasons.

Misty Swanson ISBA, **Quinn Perry**, and **Vice Chairman Kerby**, testified in support of **S 1043aa**.

MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a motion to the send **S 1043aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Nate** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Christine Reynolds
Secretary