

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 23, 2022

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the legislative session the sign-in sheet will be filed in the Legislative Library.
Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Toone** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 2022. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29294: **Rep. Ehardt** introduced **RS 29294**. This proposed legislation would require signed parental permission for students to participate in school clubs. She noted it would support parental rights.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 29294**. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Berch, Toone, and McCrostie** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Clow** made a unanimous consent request to move **H 653** up on the agenda. There being no objection, the request was granted.

H 653: **Rep. Horman** presented **H 653** which would require school districts to disclose the amount and purpose of levy funds. This legislation would require the money to be used for the purpose stated on the ballot.

In response to Committee questions, **Rep. Horman** shared there would be no fiscal impact. She explained how up to 10% of the money can be reallocated if a public meeting is held.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to send **H 653** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Lyn White, Director of Northwest Region Government Relations, Western Governors University (WGU), discussed WGU Idaho and their mission. WGU was created to help rural students achieve a degree. Ms. White shared WGU's enrollment and graduation numbers. She explained how Western Governors University functions. She discussed how WGU serves active military and veterans. She explained how they partner with community colleges and are starting to work with four year institutions. She noted how WGU created a funding program to help more students continue on to higher education.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. White** shared many students take two and a half years to go through WGU's programs. She explained those who have gone through community colleges usually take 18 months. She specified that students can take as many courses as they can fit in their schedule. In answer to Committee inquiries, Ms. White clarified they are a full accredited institution and have reciprocity with Utah. She described the pathway for teachers to become Idaho certified. She shared the different programs, certificates and disciplines teachers can receive from WGU. Ms. White emphasized there is no penalty for students who are not able to finish their courses. In response to Committee questions, Ms. White shared how they work with students to ensure graduation.

H 650:

Rep. Boyle presented **H 650** and shared how it would amend section 33-512A Idaho Code. This bill would revise provisions regarding curricular material adoption committees. She explained how this committee would comprise of twelve members including: teachers, board members, school district administration, community members, and parents. She noted this legislation would clarify the process and requirements for both parents and school boards.

MOTION:

Rep. DeMordaunt made a motion to send **H 650** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to Committee questions, **Rep. Boyle** discussed how this board is an advisory committee to the state board. She explained that this bill was created to encourage and ensure parents and community members are involved in schools. She emphasized these committees are not exclusive and parents should be invited to ensure a broad range of capabilities and interests.

Karen Pyron, School Board Trustee in the Butte County School District, testified **in opposition** of **H 650**. She explained there is currently policy in place locally for parents to be involved in curriculum adoption committees. She emphasized the requirements within this legislation would be nearly impossible for smaller schools. She noted the different committees which involve parents. In response to Committee questions, she shared how they reach out to parents and encourage parents to get involved in curriculum adoption committees.

Kayla Dunn, Idaho State Director for Power2Parent and **Richard Wortman** West Ada President of Power2Parent, testified **in support** of **H 650**. They noted that while some parents are involved and feel heard, there are parents who feel left out of the process. She voiced support for amending **H 650** to not leave it up to the individual school board.

Quinn Perry, Policy and Government Affairs Director of the Idaho School Boards Association reported they are not opposed to the requirements of the curricular material adoption committee. She discussed how they would like more flexibility within the process. She noted that curriculum committees are not standing committees and are usually made up of multiple committees.

In response to Committee questions, **Rep. Boyle** shared how they left many of the decisions to the school board to allow for smaller schools to fulfill all of the roles.

Committee members voiced support to have more parental involvement, but had concerns regarding how many positions have to be filled and if subcommittees could be created.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. McCann made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 650** for time certain, March 2, 2022.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Chairman Clow called for a vote on the substitute motion to **HOLD H 650** for time certain, March 2, 2022. **Rep. Moon** requested a roll call vote on the substitute motion. **Motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE and 9 NAY and 1 Absent/Excused . Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Marshall, Yamamoto, McCann, McCrostie and Toone. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Kerby, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Galloway, and Clow. Rep. Berch was absent/excused.**

**VOTE ON
ORIGINAL
MOTION:**

Chairman Clow called for a vote on the original motion to send **H 650** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Due to time constraints, **H 651** will be carried over to the meeting of February 24, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Elbia Christensen
Secretary