

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 28, 2022
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice Chairman Lent, Senators Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Blair (Johnson), Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Chairman Thayn
- 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:** Vice-Chairman Lent called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.
- MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Woodward** moved to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2022. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- H 654:** **Senator Cook** presented **H 654 which authorizes certain professionals to work as school counselors**. **Senator Cook** explained that if they meet the requirements of the Idaho State Board of Education (SBOE), then the licensee's would be included in the legal definition as a school counselor. This would allow those people that had private sector opportunities to be a school counselor still and meet the requirements of SBOE.
- TESTIMONY:** **Scott Woolstenhulme**, is in support of **H 654** which will meet the mental health needs of students who need qualified professionals.
Ken Marlowe, is in support of **H 654** which will provide qualified professionals to school systems in Idaho.
Layne McInelly, is in support of **H 654** due to the increase in behavioral issues and the diminishment of social skills among students.
Marilyn Whitney, is in support of **H 654**, which will help address social and emotional well-being for students.
Quinn Perry, is in support of **H 654**.
- MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **H 654** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- H 656:** **Representative Yamamoto** presented **H 656 which provides for placement on the career ladder of certain previously certified staff**. Representative Yamamoto explained that superintendents are having a hard time placing teachers from out of state and now administrators who are in state, choosing to go back into the classroom to appropriately be recognized for their years of experience on the career ladder.
- TESTIMONY:** **Layne McInelly** is in support of **H 656** as a way to give school districts the additional financial resources to cover the deficit of placing a veteran educator on the career ladder.

MOTION: **Senator Crabtree** moved to send **H 656** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Vice-Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Senator Thayn
Chair

Katy Morden
Secretary