

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 04, 2022

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the legislative session the sign-in sheet will be filed in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

RS 29727: **Vice Chairman Kerby** presented **RS 29727**. This proposed legislation is a resolution to reject certain rules in IDAPA 08 on administration, uniformity, and thoroughness.

MOTION: **Rep. Marshall** made a motion to introduce **RS 29727** and recommended it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 731: **Rep. Boyle** presented **H 731** and shared how this bill is built upon the framework of **S 1280**. She explained how this legislation would explain the requirements to screen students for dyslexia and the professional development of educational staff.

Dr. Sally Brown, Education Assistant Professor, College of Idaho, shared how **H 731** would create a clear definition of dyslexia and would outline requirements of the State Board of Education. It was explained how there would be a screening tool to enable the school to help students with dyslexia. She discussed how school grade 4 and 5 students are included within this legislation. **H 731** would use testing and proper literacy teaching methods to ensure students with dyslexia are learning.

In response to Committee questions, **Dr. Brown** shared how they will develop reporting mechanisms to ensure there is accountability. She discussed how until a child is within a special education program there is no federal funding used. She explained how identifying students with dyslexia earlier and providing an intervention will ensure less students will enter a special education program. **Dr. Brown** shared how the different tiers will work to create a program tailored to each student.

Vice Chairman Kerby, expressed appreciation for everyone involved with the creation of **H 731**.

Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent for Communications & Policy, State Department of Education, voice SDE's support for **H 731**. She shared how this legislation would help provide teachers with resources to help students. The different screening measures and the Idaho Reading Indicator would be used to identify students with dyslexia symptoms.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Whitney** shared different free resources which are currently available to help students and teachers. She explained how this legislation would ask teachers to take some of their professional development classes in special education.

Paul Stark, Executive Director, Idaho Education Association, **Robin Zikmund**, Decoding Dyslexia Idaho, **Bridget McNamee**, Student, Superintendent of Public Instruction **Sherri Ybarra's** Student Advisory Council, **Jordan Atnip**, Special Education Teacher, Council School District, **Dr. Kim Zeydel**, **Anna Nomicos**, Student, College of Idaho, **Samantha Soper**, Student, College of Idaho, **Dale Layne**, Lobbyist, Idaho Rural Schools Administrators and Idaho Association of School Administrators, **Dennis Mihalka**, **Mary Mihalka**, **Max Brown**, voiced their support for **H 731**. They shared how this legislation would create support for educators and enable students to succeed. It was discussed how **H 731** would enable early detection of dyslexia in students.

MOTION: **Rep. Yamamoto** made a motion to send **H 731** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 732: **Rep. DeMordaunt** presented **H 732** and shared how this would define homeschooling within Idaho Code.

Barry Peters, Legal Advisor, Homeschool Idaho, voiced his support for **H 732** and shared how this legislation would define homeschooling for the use of government entities. He discussed how the increase of public school students learning from home has caused confusion on who is a homeschooled student.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Peters** explained the definition within **H 732** and for dual enrollment under section 33-203 Idaho Code. He shared once a student is enrolled in a public or charter school then they are no longer considered homeschooled. He discussed reasons this legislation was created and how homeschoolers are not excluded from the Advanced Opportunities grants.

Paul Stark, Executive Director, Idaho Education Association, voiced opposition to **H 732** and shared how IEA has not had time to properly review this legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a motion to **HOLD H 732** for time certain, March 8, 2022.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Rep. Berch** made a unanimous consent request to change his motion to **HOLD H 732** for time certain, March 7, 2022. There being no objection the request was granted.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to send **H 732** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Berch** requested a roll call vote on **H 732**. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 12 AYE and 3 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Kerby, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Yamamoto, McCann and Clow. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. McCrostie, Berch, and Toone.** **Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 734: **Rep. DeMorduant** presented **H 734** and shared how it would provide for exemptions from mask mandates for children in school.

MOTION: **Rep. Moon** made a motion to send **H 734** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Chris Perri, Political Director, Idaho Education Association and **Nancy Gregory**, President-Elect, Idaho School Board Association voiced their opposition of **H 734** and shared how this would take a tool away from schools. They expressed concern of how it could make more students vulnerable to sickness.

Sandy Cardon, Boise School District Parents' Association, voiced her support for **H 734** and how students have been negatively impacted by wearing masks.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 am.

Representative Clow
Chair

Elbia Christensen
Secretary