

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 08, 2023

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Boyle

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

Chair Yamamoto called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

H 267: **Rep. Wheeler** presented **H 267**, legislation which would add to existing law to establish the Career Ready Students Program and the Added Cost Funding Support Program.

Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, said **H 267** would provide opportunities to drive meaningful outcomes in each community. She said the ultimate goal is for school districts and communities to work together to determine needs.

Rep. Clow spoke in support of **H 267**. He said the bill references the State Board of Career Technical Education, which does not exist. **Matt Freeman**, Executive Director, State Board of Education said the State Board of Education is the board of CTE.

John Silveria and **Steve Thomas** testified in support of **H 267**. They spoke about industries in need of skilled workers. They spoke about career ready students and said **H 267** would help Idaho students find careers in Idaho.

Shawn Dygert and **Peggy Hoy** testified in support of **H 267**. They said this bill would allow students to have hands-on experiences. They spoke about CTE programs and the training provided for the agricultural, manufacturing and health care fields.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to send **H 267** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Hawkins spoke in opposition to **H 267** and voiced his concern about spending money on programs for students when industries should be training employees. Committee members spoke about students being introduced to different careers at an early age, and about prioritizing education for local industries and said companies do train employees. **Superintendent Critchfield** spoke about student achievement and the many career options available.

Other committee members spoke about undue pressure put on students too early in life and if money is spent on a student, they may feel pressure to stick with a particular career. **Superintendent Critchfield** said this program would introduce many options to students.

Committee members spoke about accountability, the skills being taught in school and perfecting those skills after graduation, and about the educational constitution requirements. They said the current school curriculum is to prepare students to attend college. They said **H 267** would allow students to have access to different types of career opportunities, and some do not require a college education.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:**

Roll call vote requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 14 AYE, 1 NAY, and 2 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. McCann, Clow, Mendive, Wisniewski, Garner, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias, and Yamamoto. Voting in opposition of the motion: Rep. Hawkins. Reps. Boyle and Ehardt were absent/excused. Rep. Wheeler will sponsor the bill on the floor.**

Chair Yamamoto turned the gavel over to **Vice Chair McCann**.

H 225:

Chair Yamamoto presented **H 225**, legislation which would revise provisions regarding school attendance and to prohibit certain funding for home schooled children. She said **H 225** would define home school as education funded by parents. She said home schooled families do not take state or federal funds.

Linda Patchin, Home School Idaho, spoke about the history and growth of home school in Idaho.

Johanna Ireland and Audra Tally testified in support of **H 225**. They spoke about the differences between public, private, online, and home school. They said all costs for home schooled children are paid for by parents. They said dual enrollment would not be defined as public school.

Annie Grey, Melissa Nash, and Andrea Gremmert testified in support of **H 225**. They spoke about the experience of home schooling children, testing, and co-op groups. They said **H 225** would separate schools legally.

Committee members spoke about home school students who are enrolled in public school athletics. They said the fee charged to parents does not cover all expenses, therefore, they are accepting public funds.

Reps. Price and Hawkins spoke in opposition to **H 225**. They spoke about legislature involvement in the home school community.

MOTION:

Rep. Mendive made a motion to **RETURN H 225** to the sponsor.

**WITHDRAWN
MOTION:**

Rep. Mendive asked unanimous consent to withdraw his motion to **RETURN H 225** to the sponsor. There being no objection, the request was granted.

MOTION:

Rep. Mendive made a motion to **HOLD H 225** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chair McCann returned the gavel to **Chair Yamamoto**.

H 272:

Rep. Price presented **H 272**, legislation which would amend existing law, to require a parent's written permission for a student to participate in sex education classes. She said this bill would help parents feel like they are more in control of what is being taught.

Reps. Lanting, Sauter and McCann spoke in opposition to **H 272** and said they do not like the one-sided attorney fees. They said law already provides for this recourse.

In response to questions, **Quinn Perry**, Idaho School Boards Association, said parents would have access to educational material on line.

Rep. Galaviz spoke about the few permission slips which get returned to schools and said this would not be a successful option. She said there would need to be a better way to get family consent without putting undue burden on the education system.

Nikole Trakel and Chaleena Dean testified in support of **H 272**, and spoke about the current opt-out process and how it didn't work for their children. They said teachers would have a plan in place for students who do not opt-in to instruction.

Amy Henry testified in support of **H 272** and said this legislation is written by a former educator. She said the opt-in option allows parents to have control. She said the opt-in form could be part of the registration documents given out at the beginning of the year.

Nora Morse and Madeline Patterson testified in opposition to **H 272**, and spoke about the importance of creating a safe environment to learn about sexual education. They spoke about students who would miss out on the opportunity to learn correct information because not all parents are actively involved in teaching this information.

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to send **H 272** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 272** in committee.

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep Nelsen** made an amended substitute motion to **HOLD H 272** until March 9, 2023. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary