

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 10, 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:** Reps. Boyle and Hawkins

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.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 21, 22, 23 and 24, 2023. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1042aa: **Sen. Den Hartog** presented **S 1042aa**, legislation which would amend existing law to exempt certain public charter schools from having to demonstrate strong academic results to qualify for the Public Charter School Facilities Program and to revise a limitation on issuing bonds under the Public Charter School Facilities Program. She said high performing charter schools must meet the financial benchmark to participate in the program.

Terry Ryan, Bluum, and **Blake Youde**, Charter School Network, testified **in support of S 1042aa** and said this bill would double the number of schools eligible to participate in the Public Charter Schools Facilities Program. They spoke about the impact for at risk youth. They said the revolving loan fund allows money to be put back into classrooms instead of banks.

Andy Johnson, Sage International Network of Schools, **Bryan Fletcher**, Gem Prep Schools, **Steve Lambert**, Treasure Valley Classical Academy, and **Marc Carignan**, Idaho Charter School Network, testified **in support of S 1042aa**. They spoke about the money schools have saved because of low interest rate bonds and how the money was able to go toward student growth. They said the school limit cap should be raised so more schools can participate in the Credit Enhancement Program.

CJ Watson, Elevate Academy, testified **in support of S 1042aa** and spoke about at-risk youth and the process of tracking growth.

MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made a motion to send **S 1042aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Reps. Mathias and Berch spoke **in support of S 1042aa** and requested to be recorded for recognizing the large decline in the condition of traditional public schools. They said they believe traditional public school facilities should also be addressed.

Reps. McCann and Ehardt spoke **in support of S 1042aa**. They spoke about the innovation and creativity used to make the Credit Enhancement Program which gives parents choices. They said legislation similar to this should be created for traditional public schools.

Chair Yamamoto called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1042aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 30609: **Rep. Lanting** presented **RS 30609**, proposed legislation which would require schools used for polling locations, to not hold in-person instruction on election days to maintain safety for students. **RS 30609** replaces **H 111** with the following amendments: School districts would have discretion to hold on-line instruction or not hold school on election days. **Rep. Lanting** said school districts would have discretion to allow schools not being used for polling locations, to hold in-person instruction.

Phil McGrane, Secretary of State, State of Idaho, in response to questions said the legislation would only apply to the May and November general elections. He said this legislation would allow for calendar scheduling to minimize disruption.

Reps. Nelsen and Mathias spoke in support of **RS 30609** and said they like the local control which allows school districts to choose what is best for the students and community.

Rep. Price spoke in opposition to **RS 30609**. She said this legislation implies voters can't be trusted. She said school districts should be encouraged to hold in-service on election days and questions why a bill is necessary.

Chair Yamamoto spoke in support of **RS 30609**. She said student safety is the objective of this legislation. She spoke about in-person voting and the shortage of ADA compliant buildings available for polling locations. She said instructional changes would be on the school district calendars in order for families to make the necessary adjustments.

MOTION: **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 30609**.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 30609** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Price** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Lanting** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary