

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 16, 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 (Woodings)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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 313: **Rep. Furniss** presented **H 313**, legislation which would require feminine hygiene products to be provided in female and unisex restrooms for grades 6-12. He said the suggestions from the committee have made this a better bill. He said local school boards can choose what products and what vendors to use. He spoke about the cost to put dispensers in the school restrooms.

In response to questions, **Rep. Furniss** said there currently is not a policy for feminine hygiene products in schools.

Vice Chair McCann spoke in support of **H 313** and said this bill is about hygiene and respecting girls. She said other hygiene products are provided by the schools, specifically toilet paper, paper towels, and soap.

Avery Hendrix, Brooke Nelson, and April Morrison testified in support of **H 313**. They spoke about students who are too embarrassed to ask adults for feminine hygiene products, and would rather miss classes to go home for supplies. They spoke about poor hygiene which could lead to infections.

Dr. Kristine Bowlden, Ruth Schneider, Kyle Ellefson and Jennifer Lingle testified in support of **H 313** and spoke about the physical effects of menstruation. They spoke about the experiences of students who had to ask adults for feminine hygiene products and said it would be a common courtesy to provide the products.

Susan Thompson, Madeline Patterson, and Doneta Stephesen testified in support of **H 313** and said periods cannot be regulated. They spoke about girls who unexpectedly start a period at school, student privacy, family poverty and how providing something so basic can help students stay engaged in classroom studies and school functions.

Alison Russel and Dominic Sparling testified in support of **H 313**. They said being a teenager is hard and menstrual health adds to this difficulty. They spoke about using a restroom to find there is no toilet paper and said they feel sorry for girls who do not have feminine products.

Carol Mitchell and Cindy Thorngren testified in support of **H 313** and spoke about panic, embarrassment, privacy and bullying. They said they support women and girls.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to send **H 313** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Reps. Galaviz, Berch and Lanting spoke in support of **H 313**. They spoke about providing assistance to families who cannot afford feminine hygiene products, teachers who pay for products out of their own pockets and the shortage of nurses in schools today. They spoke about frustrations when restrooms run out of toilet paper or paper towels and they think feminine hygiene products should be made available.

Reps. Hawkins, Clow, Wisniewski, and Price spoke in opposition to **H 313** and said feminine hygiene products should be purchased using individual school budgets. They spoke about the cost of dispensers, possible vandalism and mandating schools to provide products. They said this should be taken care of at a local level.

Reps. McCann, Yamamoto, and Woodings spoke in support of **H 313**. They spoke about state wide policy, clarity and consistency. They said school discretionary funds are already spent.

Committee members spoke about biological boys and biological girls and said female hygiene products would not be allowed in male restrooms.

Other committee members said some students do not have parental engagement and need government support in schools.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Chair Yamamoto called for a vote on the motion to send **H 313** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Wisniewski, Hawkins, and Price** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Furniss** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

S 1015:

Rep. Lanting presented **S 1015**, legislation which would amend existing law to limit applicability to full-time students. He said this would allow school districts to have more flexibility when determining a full-time student. **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, spoke about adding the term to both sections of code for proper reporting. She spoke about extended learning opportunities and eligibility.

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

Reps. Ehardt and Nelsen spoke in support of **S 1015**. They spoke about school choice, flexibility and activities led by parents.

MOTION:

Rep. Nelsen made a motion to send **S 1015** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Lanting** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1069:

Senator Ward-Engelking presented **S 1069**, legislation which would amend existing law to allow for teacher apprenticeships. She spoke about paraprofessionals in the classroom, teacher shortages and a program to earn credits toward teacher certification.

Senator Semmelroth spoke about registered apprenticeships for K-12 teaching and said student teaching would change from one semester to 3 years.

Committee members said the paid apprenticeship program would provide much needed help in the classroom and properly train up-coming teachers. They spoke about mentors and said the State Board of Education and Higher Education would determine the mentors. They spoke about teachers of record and a standard teaching certificate.

MOTION:

Rep. Mendive made a motion to send **S 1069** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. McCann** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary