

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 20, 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.

Cally Roach, Idaho State Board of Education Member, spoke about the various certificates and degrees earned by students, and about Idaho institutions and the differing ways to reach students. She then introduced the presenters.

Maygen Allison, Heavy Duty Truck Student, College of Western Idaho (CWI), spoke about the opportunities which helped her succeed.

Seferino Tapia, CWI Law Enforcement Graduate, spoke about his experiences going through the law enforcement program and all of the hands-on training he received. He remarked he now has a great network of officers available to him in his career as a law enforcement officer.

Marcos Serratos-Garcia, Heavy Duty Truck Instructor, CWI, spoke about his experience of going through the heavy duty truck program and graduating and going to work in the industry, then five years later, CWI invited him back to be an instructor.

Chance Reynolds, Idaho State University (ISU) Secondary Education student, spoke about his positive experience attending ISU and his involvement with the student body government. He commented, with his education degree he would like to return to his hometown to teach.

Jorge Hernandez, Advisory, Boise State University (BSU), spoke about what the state is doing for veterans when they come home and try to transition from military to civilian life. He remarked, at BSU, they provide the necessary support to make veteran students successful.

Keith Exner, current student at BSU, spoke about his studies in medicine after transitioning out of the Navy. He remarked about how much BSU supports veteran students.

S 1070: **Rep. McCann**, presented **S 1070**, legislation which would amend Career Technical Centers (CTC) funding. She explained, to be eligible for this funding, at least 15% of the students attending a CTC must come from separate high schools, but rural school districts expressed difficulty in being able to recruit 15% during their start-up years, so this legislation will allow a new CTC to be eligible with an initial enrollment of 5% of the students from separate high schools. After the first year, it would increase by 5% until they reach the 15% requirement. Additionally, she explained, existing programs would be allowed to use a three-year rolling average to calculate the 15% requirement. Finally, this legislation also addresses transportation challenges in rural areas where students may have to travel for an hour each way to participate in career technical education programs in neighboring districts and which high school counts them in regard to the 15% requirement.

In response to committee questions regarding the differences between a school and CTC, and why a CTC gets more funding, **Rep. McCann** replied, CTCs are able to qualify for additional funding because CTCs provide more regional coverage, while schools are more limited. **Rep. McCann** then yielded the podium to **Mike Keckler**.

Mike Keckler, Communication and Legislative Affairs, Idaho State Board of Education, further explained the differences between schools with career technical education programs and CTCs by stating CTCs are focused entirely on career technical education programs, while schools are regular high schools that offer career technical classes. Because CTCs require specialized equipment for classes, they qualify for the additional funding.

In response to a committee question regarding academic studies in CTCs, **Mr. Keckler** replied students would have to attend academic classes in traditional high schools because CTCs only offer technical education courses.

MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a motion to send **S 1070** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. McCann** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 339: **Rep. McCann**, presented **H 339**, legislation which would allow Idaho voters the opportunity to indicate their support or opposition to the question: Should the state of Idaho, the Idaho Legislature, or any state agency direct or appropriate public tax dollars to private K-12 schools, including private religious schools, and for-profit schools? She believes it is important to hear what the citizens of Idaho really want. The advisory question would be added to the November 2024 statewide general election, and the Legislative Council will oversee the crafting of the summary for the advisory question, covering both sides; pro and con.

Speaking **in support** of **H 339**, **Kayla Dodson**, representing herself and **Mary Ruckh**, representing herself, commented it is important to get this clear and simple question out to the general public in order to hear where the citizens of Idaho really want their tax dollars going.

Chris Cargill, representing Mountain States Policy Center, stated they are **in opposition** to **H 339** because the question is misleading, confusing, and will do more harm than good.

Committee members held a discussion on the bill and several expressed concerns over the phrase "for profit" and if that would be too misleading, why are charter schools missing from the advisory question, and whether or not the wording in the question is really clear enough and not misleading.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to send **H 339** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Discussion on the motion was held. Committee members expressed similar concerns as previously discussed prior to the motion. Other comments from committee members included, public tax dollars shouldn't go towards private religious schools, there's plenty of time until the November 2024 election to properly educate the public on the issues surrounding the question, and it would be beneficial to see how voters would answer the question.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chair Yamamoto called for a vote on the motion to send **H 339** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Hawkins, and Price** all requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. McCann** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary