

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 27, 2025

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Pickett, Vice Chairman Hawkins, Representatives Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Harris, Marmon, Tanner(13), Mathias, Church

**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.

Chairman Pickett called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Tanner(13)** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 22 and 23, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, explained the duties of SDE and the State Board of Education and spoke about 2025 goals. These goals include back to basics, preparation, teacher development, and budget resources.

In response to committee questions, **Superintendent Critchfield** clarified back to basics, training teachers better in the science of reading, behavioral health, communication standards, and budget by student needs. She touched on possible changes in US Department of Education.

RS 32016: **Rep. Mathias** presented **RS 32016**, proposed legislation regarding denial of public education. He said under current law, parents can remove their students from school and transfer prior to being punished for dangerous conduct thus avoiding a record of expulsion or discipline for the incident. He said this proposed legislation would add language to allow school districts to preserve their current authority to deny enrollment also in cases where a student is "disenrolled in lieu of discipline..."

MOTION: **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 32016**.

Committee members shared concerns over language in **RS 32016** and **Chairman Pickett** put the meeting at ease for 2 minutes.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a substitute motion to change the language of **RS 32016**, Section 1.a.V, to read "Who has been denied enrollment, for reasons detrimental to the health and safety of other pupils."

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Clow** made an amended substitute motion to return **RS 32016** to the sponsor. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 44: **Rep. Mathias** presented **H 44**, legislation regarding parent involvement in cases of bullying. He said schools are safer when incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB) are firmly addressed. This legislation would ensure families whose students are involved in a serious incident of HIB are notified so they can take necessary steps.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to send **H 44** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Mathias** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

Representative Pickett
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary