

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 13, 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.

RS 32325: **Rep. Hawkins** presented **RS 32325**, proposed legislation regarding school district Chaplains. School districts and charter schools would be allowed to accept a school chaplain as an employee or volunteer, to serve students, staff, and parents.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to introduce **RS 32325**, with the exception of lines 22, 23, and 24, on page 2.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 32325**. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Pickett** called for a vote on the original motion to introduce **RS 32325**, with the exception of lines 22, 23, and 24, on page 2. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32648: **Rep. Hawkins** presented **RS 32648**, proposed legislation regarding rules, education, and vocational rehabilitation. This states the outcome of the work of the House Education Committee regarding temporary and pending rules.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to introduce **RS 32648**, and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Hawkins** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 32656: **Rep. Church** presented **RS 32656**, proposed legislation which strengthens existing school safety requirements by mandating rigorous facility inspections, requiring prompt abatement of unsafe conditions related to lead and mold, and prompt mitigation of high levels of radon. This establishes clear accountability measures including mandatory reporting to parents.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to introduce **RS 32656**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Pickett put the committee at ease for 2 minutes.

S 1070: **Rep. Raymond** presented **S 1070**, legislation regarding parent tech awareness.

Matthew Todd, spoke about risks with technology and students. He explained a new program this legislation would create called Parent Tech Awareness, which aims to enhance parental knowledge and engagement in monitoring and protecting their children's online activities on school administered technology as well as personal technological devices. This would provide critical information on the dangers of online activity, including cyber threats, digital exploitation, and social media risks on school administered technology as well as personal technological devices. He explained this subscription is free to Idahoans and user names would be provided.

MOTION: **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to send **S 1070** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members inquired about availability and accessibility to all parents, and adding more work to already busy school districts.

Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, clarified this is an awareness program and said school districts and charter schools will determine how to make parents aware of this program.

Alexis Morgan, Idaho Congress of Parents and Teachers, testified **in support of S 1070**.

Committee members discussed parental responsibilities and Idaho Code.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Chairman Pickett** stated he was in doubt regarding the voice vote and called for a roll call vote on the motion. **Motion failed by a vote of 6 AYE, 7 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Pickett, Ehardt, Nelsen, Sauter, Mathias, and Church. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Clow, Mendive, Wisniewski, Harris, Marmon, and Tanner(13). Rep. Garner** was absent/excused.

H 397: **Rep. Wisniewski** presented **H 397**, legislation regarding civics testing requirements.

Committee members inquired about additional courses, administering tests, and assessments.

Greg Wilson, Chief of Staff, State Department of Education, clarified civics courses and test requirements. He said this update aligns with existing government standards.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **H 397** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Samuel Lair, Idaho Freedom Foundation, and **Ed DePriest**, testified **in support of H 397**.

Korrin Rue, testified **in opposition to H 397**.

Committee members inquired about special education students, clarification about successful completion, and required curriculum.

Greg Wilson, Chief of Staff, State Department of Education clarified test development and implementation. He explained policy and board authority.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a substitute motion to send **H 397** to General Orders, and recommend the following change: On page 2, line 5, replace "completion" with "passage."

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 2 AYE and 12 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Mathias and Church. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Pickett, Hawkins, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Harris, Marmon, and Tanner(13)**.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
ORIGINAL
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 14 AYE, and 0 NAY.**
Voting in favor of the motion: **Reps. Pickett, Hawkins, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt,
Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Harris, Marmon, Tanner(13), Mathias,
and Church.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **None.** Rep. Wisniewski will
sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting
adjourned at 10:30 am.

Representative Pickett
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary