

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 09, 2026
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW41
MEMBERS: Chairman Hawkins, Vice Chairman Handy, Representatives Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Marmon, Pickett, Hostetler, Veile, Mathias, Galaviz
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Reps. Wisniewski
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 Hawkins called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.
S 1225aa: **Rep. Petzke** presented **S 1225aa**, legislation regarding President search for higher education. This legislation adds a new section of code, defining the process for all presidents searches for the state institutions of higher education. This would amend Idaho Code to make only the name of the sole finalist publicly available.
MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to send **S 1225aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.
Ken Burgess, Idaho Press Club, testified **in opposition** to **S 1225aa**.
In response to committee member questions, **Rep. Petzke** said this requires a minimum of one name presented to the public, but allows for more.
**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Chairman Hawkins** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1225aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Petzke** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
Dawn Hall, Executive Director, IDEal, spoke about the Idaho college savings program, said it is self funded, and is like a roth IRA for education. She said the program is not just for Idaho and gave a list of eligible uses for funds.
RS 33205: **Rep. Pickett** presented **RS 33205**, proposed legislation amending the Public Schools Facilities Cooperative Funding Program.
MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to introduce **RS 33205**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary