

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2026

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Cook, Senators Woodward, Nichols, Carlson, Burtenshaw, Zito, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Lent** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

H 515 **Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding requirements for harassment, intimidation, or bullying information and professional development. Representative Chris Mathias** presented the bill which was designed to do two things: schools would have a procedure to notify parents when a serious bullying incident occurred and the requirement of schools to send annual reports of bullying instances would be removed.

MOTION: **Senator Woodward** moved to send **H 515** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Burtenshaw** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

S 1244 **Repeals existing law to remove obsolete provisions. Senator Semmelroth** stated this bill was designed to remove obsolete code after the enactment of 2025 H 14. There were no policy changes in the bill, just removal of code that had not been used in 40 years.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **S 1244** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Nichols** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 33318 **Relating to the Idaho Parental Choice Tax Credit. Vice Chairman Cook** stated that this bill would not remove 2025 H 93 but take a 4 percent cut from FY2026 and 5 percent cut from FY2027.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Carlson, Vice Chairman Cook, and Senator Ward-Engelking** discussed what cuts had already occurred in K-12. **Senator Nichols** commented on the technicality of whether this was a tax code or an education code and that the Legislature shouldn't be taking cuts from a new program. **Chairman Lent** reminded the Committee that it was a print hearing. **Vice Chairman Cook** answered that it would be better to take a little from the program in the first year than in a few years. **Senator Zito** commented that this was a tax credit and if the State could give money back to the taxpayers, the State should. **Vice Chairman Cook** agreed with her but 90 percent of Idahoans didn't pay the amount of tax credit they would get back for the program. **Senator Zito** asked how much the Legislature planned to cut from Idaho LAUNCH. **Vice Chairman Cook** answered that \$10 million would be taken out of FY2026 and FY2027 for a total of \$20 million, he continued that LAUNCH and the Parental Tax Credit were two separate programs. **Senator Ward-Engelking** commented that Idaho LAUNCH came from a designated fund.

MOTION: **Senator Woodward** moved to send **RS 33318** to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. **Senator Carlson** requested a roll call vote.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Cook, Senators Woodward, Burtenshaw, Ward-Engelking,** and **Semmelroth** voted aye. **Senators Nichols, Carlson** and **Zito** voted nay. The motion carried.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:26 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lauren Young
Secretary