

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 27, 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:** 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 Hawkins called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

RS 33261: **Rep. Redman** presented **RS 33261**, proposed legislation regarding school sponsored bible reading. **Blaine Konzatti**, Idaho Family Policy Center, discussed history and tradition.

MOTION: **Rep. Marmon** made a motion to introduce **RS 33261**.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** **Rep. Nelson** made a substitute motion to return **RS 33261** to the sponsor.

Committee members spoke about Idaho tradition and unconstitutional legislation.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a tie vote of 7 AYE and 7 NAY. Voting in favor** of the substitute motion: **Reps. Handy, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz. Voting in opposition** to the substitute motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Marmon, Pickett, and Hostetler.**

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
ORIGINAL
MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Original motion failed by a tie vote of 7 AYE and 7 NAY. Voting in favor** of the original motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Marmon, Pickett, and Hostetler. Voting in opposition** to the original motion: **Reps. Handy, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz.**

RS 33332C1: **Rep. Tanner (13)** presented **RS 33332C1**, proposed legislation prohibiting excused absences when students are absent from class to engage in political protests, walkouts, or volunteering for political purposes.

MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to introduce **RS 33332C1. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33523: **Rep. Tanner (13)** presented **RS 33523**, proposed legislation regarding student immigration data. He said this legislation would replace **H 656** and explained changes.

MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to introduce **RS 33523.**

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion failed by a tie vote of 7 AYE and 7 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Hawkins, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Marmon, Pickett, and Hostetler. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Handy, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz.**

S 1244: **Rep. Ehlers** presented **S 1244**, legislation to clean up code regarding regional library systems. He discussed outdated, unnecessary, or obsolete provisions.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to send **S 1244** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Ehlers** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1227: **Rep. Ehlers** presented **S 1227**, legislation regarding artificial intelligence and education. This would establish a framework around AI and K-12. School districts and public charter schools would adopt their own policies under the framework provided by the State Department of Education. He spoke about protecting students, properly training teachers, and transparency. He explained possible amendments and recommend it be sent to General Orders.

Committee members discussed standards assessment, professional development, implementation, and review process.

Andy Grover, Executive Director, Idaho Association of School Administrators, **Paul Zimmerman**, Director of Technology, Blaine County School District, and **Alexis Morgan**, Director of Public Policy, Idaho PTA, testified **in support of S 1227**.

Daniel Owsley, testified as being **neutral** to **S 1227**.

Rep. Ehlers discussed age appropriate learning and ethical guidelines.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to send **S 1227** to General Orders. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Ehlers** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary