

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 04, 2026

TIME: 8:30 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 8:30 am.

RS 33118: **Rep. Price** presented **RS 33118**, proposed legislation to repeal all sections of Idaho code for the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA). This organization is funded by the state, without state oversight. IDLA is not a state agency and does not sit within the State Department of Education or the State Board of Education. There are dozens of cost effective, standards-aligned programs local school districts can use to provide remote learning options.

MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to introduce **RS 33118**.

**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: **Rep. Handy, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz.**

RS 33604: **Rep. Pickett** presented **RS 33604**, proposed legislation to update the governance, oversight, and funding structure of the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) to improve accountability, transparency, and fiscal sustainability. These changes preserve IDLA as an educational option while better aligning state support with student access needs and responsible use of public funds.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to introduce **RS 33604.** **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, and Veile** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.**

H 794: **Rep. Tanner (13)** presented **H 794**, legislation to instruct schools receiving public funds for education, to count students who are absent from class in order to engage in political protest, walkouts, or volunteering for political purposes, as an unexcused absence for the entire day.

Cierra Clarke, Moms for Liberty and **Kristina Hardy**, testified **in support** of **H 794.**

Nolan Jarvis, Nathan Zimmerman, Cruz Beazer, Jenn Beazer, Amanda Reed, Olivia Luna, President, Babevote, **Quinn Perry**, Idaho School Boards Association, and **Amanda Reed**, testified **in opposition** to **H 794.**

Committee members questioned if legislation conflicts with Supreme Court rulings and discussed applicable schools, keeping students in school during learning hours, and protesting outside of school hours.

Rep. Tanner (13) spoke about student walkouts or protests during learning time and class disruptions.

MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to send **H 794** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members discussed government and democracy education, maintaining a republic, free speech during and after school hours, constitutional scrutiny, parental rights, and adding extra burdens to school districts and the State Board of Education.

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: **Rep. Handy, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary