

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 11, 2026

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Burtenshaw

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 3:01 p.m.

S 1358 **Education - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the career ladder for superintendents and building level administrators.** **Senator Mark Harris** presented the bill which addressed perceived inequities in the system of the career ladder when moving between teaching and administrative roles. The bill allowed administrators to count their administrative experience toward career ladder advancement. **Senator Harris** closed that the bill would improve retention of teachers and administrators.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Zito** asked if a professional moved from teaching to administration, whether their career ladder position would be preserved. **Senator Harris** answered yes.

TESTIMONY: **Michael Jacobson** and **Andy Grover**, Executive Director of the Idaho Association of School Administrators, testified in support of the bill. They stated the bill would support professionals as they moved from one career to the other without taking a severe pay cut.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Lent** asked about the pay scale difference between teaching and administrative roles. **Mr. Grover** answered that most administrator roles were negotiated while teacher salaries were set. **Chairman Lent** asked whether someone returning from a superintendent role to the classroom would be paid the same as someone who stayed on the teacher career ladder. **Mr. Grover** responded that it would vary depending on an evaluation and where they were on the ladder. **Senator Semmelroth** asked about the life time certificate and how the bill would affect the program. **Mr. Grover** answered that professionals could be considered as long as they had a proficient evaluation. **Senator Semmelroth** asked if, in a scenario where a future law would allow administrators to have no instructional background, would administrators be able to move to the teacher career ladder. **Mr. Grover** answered that if they met the evaluation requirements, then yes.

MOTION: **Senator Semmelroth** moved to send **S 1358** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

H 762 **Education - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding public charter school admission procedures.** **Senator Woodward** presented the bill which would give charter school lottery priority to children in foster care who were already attending a school as well as military-connected students.

TESTIMONY: **Tammie Perrault**, Department of War, **Nanette Merrill**, Executive Director of the Idaho Charter School Association, **Christopher Knaus**, active duty Air Force member, **Ashley Cotton**, military spouse, **Steve Lambert**, Air Force veteran, **Emily Downey**, Executive Director of Sage International Charter Schools, **Christopher Collins**, Army veteran, **Amanda Finster**, active duty Air Force, **Jamie Scearcy**, military spouse, **Brynn Scearcy**, military-connected sixth grade student, and **Anna Garvin**, military spouse, all testified in support of the bill. They argued that the bill would bring support and stability to military families who wanted their children to receive a good education.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Semmelroth** asked Coco Collins, Mr. Collins daughter, what her experience had been moving around and how she liked her school. **Ms. Collins** answered she liked the flexibility of her charter school and that they had many breaks in their schedule. **Senator Cook** asked Brynn Scearcy if she would be a politician down the road. **Ms. Scearcy** answered yes.

MOTION: **Senator Cook** moved to send **H 762** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Acting Senator Rundhaug (Carlson)** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lauren Young
Secretary