

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Cook, Senators Woodward, Carlson, Burtenshaw, and Semmelroth

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Nichols, Zito, and Ward-Engelking

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 2:02 p.m

H 815 **Education - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the transportation support program.** **Representative Sonia Galaviz** presented the bill which would address Anser Charter School, which had asked for a small correction to restore their transportation block grant. **Representative Galaviz** asked Heather Dennis, former director of Anser Charter School, to explain how the bill would help the school. **Ms. Dennis** stated the bill would permit the school to continue the transportation program that allowed it to have a bus route and take students on field trips. **Representative Galaviz** closed that the bill was not asking for Anser to receive special treatment but asking for the same treatment as other schools.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Cook** asked Representative Galaviz if she checked to make sure no other school was left out. **Representative Galaviz** answered yes.

TESTIMONY: **Jessica Salzsieder**, Anser Parent, and **Sarah Wilson**, Anser Transportation Director, testified in support of the bill. They testified the bill would give students the opportunity to learn in the community through field trips and provide a service to families through morning and afternoon bus services.

MOTION: **Senator Semmelroth** moved to send **H 815** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Burtenshaw** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Lent passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Cook.

H 849 **Education – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding certain placement and movement on the career ladder.** **Chairman Lent** and **Representative Sonia Galaviz** presented the bill which would address career ladder movement. **Representative Galaviz** further explained the bill would allow for pupil service staff to be added to the career ladder. She invited Jerry Tatro, Legislative Services Office, to explain the current ladder and how the proposed legislation would adjust it to include career technical education (CTE) instructors with prior industry experience as well as pupil service staff. **Representative Galaviz** and **Senator Lent** closed that the bill was about movement and placement on the ladder and would allow professionals to advance in their career.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Cook** and **Senator Carlson** asked a clarifying question on how placement and movement happened on the ladder. **Representative Galaviz** answered that CTE instructors with prior industry experience were already on the ladder but could only move up every four years. This bill would allow them to move every year after a proficient evaluation was received. She continued that pupil service staff had never been on the ladder and adding them to it would help with retention of staff.

TESTIMONY: **Dr. Joy Jansen**, Lake Pend Oreille School District, testified in support of the bill. **Dr. Jansen** stated the bill would help with retention of staff and benefit rural school districts.

MOTION: **Senator Burtenshaw** moved to send **H 849** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Woodward** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Cook passed the gavel to Chairman Lent.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 2:38 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lauren Young
Secretary