

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 2026

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Nichols

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 2:04 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Thank you to our Page, Caleb Williams.** **Vice Chairman Cook** asked Mr. Williams what he learned most during his time as a page. **Mr. Williams** responded that he learned about the behind the scenes work of the Legislature and how busy Senators were. **Senator Zito** asked what his favorite song was. **Mr. Williams** answered It was "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." **Mr. Williams** proceeded to sing the song to the Committee. **Senator Carlson** asked if he had changed his professional plans. **Mr. Williams** answered no because he believed it was his responsibility to serve the people of Idaho. **Senator Ward-Engelking** thanked Mr. Williams for singing to the Committee.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Burtenshaw** moved to approve the Minutes of March 12, 2026. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Woodward** moved to approve the Minutes of March 16, 2026. **Senator Carlson** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Carlson** moved to approve the Minutes of March 17, 2026. **Senator Woodward** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Burtenshaw** moved to approve the Minutes of March 18, 2026. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

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

S 1420 **Medical Education – Amends existing law to provide for the Medical Education Fund and to provide for certain funding.** **Chairman Lent** presented the bill which would stabilize the Medical Education Fund by taking money out of health insurance premium taxes the State collected. The reason for the shift was because the fund relied heavily on the General Fund. **Chairman Lent** explained that the premiums generated around \$158-160 million annually, the proposed 1% diversion of the fund would bring about \$1.6 million dollars annually to the fund. He emphasized it was not new money but a reallocation for stability. **Representative Dustin Manwaring** explained how the funding mechanism was structured and how existing funding went to medical education. The bill would broaden the fund by reallocating existing funding and seeking future funding sources.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Zito** asked a clarifying question, where the 1% of funds would go. **Representative Manwaring** answered that the funds would go to the Medical Education Fund. **Senator Zito** stated she was not aware there was a tax on health insurance premiums and asked how the tax was calculated and if it would be increased. **Representative Manwaring** responded that he did not have that information in front of him but would send the Committee the information. **Senator Ward-Engelking, Chairman Lent,** and **Representative Manwaring** discussed dedicating funds and making sure the language was correct so the new fund would not end up in the General Fund, as well as how this would affect standing programs.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **S 1420** to floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Burtenshaw** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Zito** requested to be recorded as voting nay.

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

HJM 20 **Education Funding – States findings of the Legislature and calls on the President of the United States and Congress to assist states in covering the costs of educating students residing in the United States regardless of immigration status.** **Senator Brian Lenney** asked for Representative Steve Tanner to present the memorial. **Representative Tanner** presented the memorial which was a request to the U.S. Congress to conduct a federal study on how many children in schools were undocumented. He stated that the responsibility to fund these students should fall on Congress and not Idaho. He added that there were about 2,000 to 7,500 students, according to Bluum, who would be affected.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Semmelroth** asked what Bluum was. **Representative Tanner** explained that it was a charter school network. **Senator Semmelroth** asked why he was citing charter school numbers and not brick-and-mortar public school district numbers. **Representative Tanner** answered that it was a report distributed by Bluum but it was about the public school system.

MOTION: **Senator Carlson** moved to send **HJM 20** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Woodward** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Burtenshaw** and **Senator Semmelroth** requested to be recorded as voting nay.

H 915 **Adds to existing law to require public schools to offer daily recess to students in kindergarten through grade 5 and to encourage public schools to offer unstructured activity breaks for students in grade 6 through 8.** **Senator Ben Toews** presented the bill which would require schools to give at least a 20 minute recess to students in K-5 and encourage a 10 minute break to grades 6-8. The bill further prohibited withholding recess from an entire class as group punishment. **Senator Toews** ended that the bill supported student health and academic success.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Woodward** asked why the legislation was created when schools already had recess. **Senator Toews** answered there had been a few cases where no recess was an issue and they wanted to address that. **Senator Woodward** asked if there was an attempt made by school districts to implement this. **Senator Toews** responded he was not aware of actions taken by school districts and asked to be excused to present to another committee. **Chairman Lent** asked if he wanted to know the outcome of his bill. **Senator Toews** answered yes. **Senator Woodward** commented that due to the presenter's absence, he would motion to hold the bill.

MOTION: **Senator Woodward** moved to hold **H 915** in Committee subject to the call of the Chair. **Vice Chairman Cook** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION **Senator Ward-Engelking** commented that districts already provided recess and this was just one more thing we were asking teachers to do.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to hold **H 915** in committee subject to the call of the Chair passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lauren Young
Secretary