

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 24, 2020

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Brian Hall; Harold Ott, Rural Schools; Rob Winslow, IASA; Tracie Bent, OSBE; Craig Cobia, Citizens for Decency; Liz Hatter, Idaho Library Association; Lindsey Zea; Arlene Studer, UMW

**Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

**H 522:** **Rep. Young** presented **H 522**, which requires vendor contracts for digital or online library resources that are specifically targeted to K-12 students, to contain a provision that the resource will comply with state law and will not provide material deemed harmful to minors. It empowers schools to suspend or terminate the contract if the vendor is not in compliance. The bill requires the Idaho Commission for Libraries' annual report to include notations of any complaints or incidents from the prior year.

**Stephanie Gifford**, member of Protect Child Health Coalition, provided the background and research that led to the bill. She said students are often directed to research using databases on Lili.org. She relayed numerous articles she found on these databases that violated the statutory definition of obscene materials. She took her initial concerns to the State Librarian and was assured the problem had been fixed by applying the correct filters. In her experience the problem persisted, so **H 522** places direct responsibility for database content on the vendors, rather than the Idaho Commission for Libraries or school districts.

**Brian Hall**, elementary school teacher; **Dr. Craig Cobia**, Co-founder of Citizens for Decency; and **Lindsey Zea** spoke **in support** of the bill. They said the bill protects children from harmful materials and will allow them to learn and research safely.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Moon** made a motion to send **H 522** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Rep. Young** clarified the Idaho Commission for Libraries is not required to judge whether material is pornographic, but the bill builds an accountability mechanism.

**Reps. Marshall, McCrostie, DeMordaunt** and **Berch** spoke **in support** of the motion. **Rep. McCrostie** noted it is entirely appropriate to prevent young people's access to obscene materials, but it is also important for them to develop healthy attitudes toward sex education.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Rep. Young** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 27808:** **Rep. DeMordaunt** presented **RS 27808**, which proposes providing funding for teachers to buy classroom supplies. She cited a recent study showing Idaho teachers spend \$400 of their own money each year on supplies. The proposed legislation would be subject to appropriation and she noted this money has been provided in the past. The funds will go directly to classroom enrichment and teachers will have full control over the funds they receive.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to introduce **RS 27808**.

In response to Committee questions, **Rep. DeMordaunt** explained the fiscal note is an estimate based on providing \$100 per teacher. She said she would address the distribution in the bill hearing, but the intent is for equal distribution to all teachers.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

**RS 27809:** **Rep. DeMordaunt** presented **RS 27809**, which would address the efficacy of K-3 literacy funds by identifying multiple programs that meet certain specifications, including the opportunity for parental engagement, and monitoring and reporting program results to help inform decisions. She clarified which programs to use will continue to be a local decision and this would apply to multiple vendors.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to introduce **RS 27809**. **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.**

**HCR 34:** **Rep. Amador** presented **HCR 34**, which allows the legislative council to authorize an interim committee to study the higher education funding formula. The current formula was instituted many years ago and is primarily based on calculations of the enrollment workload adjustment and occupancy costs. The legislature does not always follow this formula in its appropriation and there has been discussion about using a different model, possibly tied to outcomes. He noted **Governor Little** has creating a working group on this topic and the Idaho House of Representatives has one member on the group. The working group aims to make a recommendation this summer and Rep. Amador suggested an interim committee could pick up where they leave off, so the legislature is prepared with a solution next session. He noted the goal is to make higher education funding as efficient as possible.

**Chairman Clow** raised questions about the fiscal note and **Rep. Amador** stated he would amend it.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Kerby** made a motion to send **HCR 34** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. He felt an interim committee will involve more legislators and increase their understanding and support of the issue.

**Rep. Berch** spoke **in support** of the motion, noting his constituents are concerned about the rising cost of higher education tuition.

**Rep. Goesling** spoke **in opposition**. He stated it is a complex issue and legislators will not have the time or expertise to properly study this.

**Rep. DeMordaunt** spoke **in support**, saying she appreciated the efforts of the working group, but the legislative branch needs to do its own research on the issue.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 11 AYE, 4 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Reps. Mendive, DeMordaunt, Ehardt, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy and Berch. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Shepherd, Boyle, Moon and Goesling. Rep. Amador** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.

---

Representative Clow  
Chair

---

Erica McGinnis  
Secretary