

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 09, 2020

**TIME:** 8:30 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:** Reps. DeMordaunt, Ehardt and Abernathy

**GUESTS:** Karen Echeverria, ISBA

**Chairman Clow** called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

**S 1278:** **Sen. Ward-Engelking** presented **S 1278**, which changes the reimbursement rate schools and districts receive for offering driver education programs. The reimbursement fund comes from driver's license fees and the balance has grown exponentially, but the reimbursement rate has not changed since 1996. She noted schools offer many programs to ensure student safety and wellbeing and in rural areas there are likely no private companies offering driver training. The rate increase will still leave a cash balance of over \$3 million in the fund each year.

**Karen Echeverria**, Executive Director, Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA), also presented **S 1278**. The bill originated from an ISBA resolution. The bill will increase the reimbursement rate by \$25, to \$150 per student. Students pay an average of \$173 to take driver education and local education agencies subsidize the programs by nearly \$260,000. She noted students will still be able to learn from a parent, instead of completing a driver education program.

**Sen. Ward-Engelking** answered questions about the fiscal note, saying the fund currently has a balance of \$4.9 million; she will revise the fiscal note to add clarity. She stated this bill does not allow private companies to be reimbursed. She stated the bill will help students and their parents save some money.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Boyle** made a motion to send **S 1278** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Moon** and **Wisniewski** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 am.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Erica McGinnis  
Secretary