

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, March 13, 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:** Rep. Goesling

**GUESTS:** Trinity Nicholson, Panhandle Special Needs; John Watts, Idaho Central Credit Union; Christine Pisani and Tracy Warren, Developmental Disabilities Council; Bill Benkula, WDB, Inc.; Senator Dean M. Mortimer; Hannah Liedkie, Opportunities Unlimited, Inc.; Maureen Stokes, Witco

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Abernathy** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2020 and March 6, 2020 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 624:** **Greg Wilson**, Senior Policy Advisor for Education, Governor's Office, presented **H 624**, a trailer bill to **H 523**. It strengthens and clarifies reporting requirements for professional and advanced professional performance criteria, especially the number of students meeting proficiency goals. It sets a deadline for the completion of teacher evaluation audits by the State Department of Education and also sunsets the Master Educator Premiums program; teachers who have already applied will still receive their awards. Now that the third rung of the career ladder has been built out, the program is no longer needed.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Kerby** made a motion to send **H 624** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Reps. Goesling and DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1330aa:** **Sen. Mortimer** presented **S 1330aa**, which codifies the Extended Employment Services (EES) program and states how it will be administered. Codification will help give direction to the State Board of Education and Division of Vocational Rehab on how to administer the program. He stated EES is extremely important to our most vulnerable populations. The bill provides definitions; establishes EES in the State Board, under the direction of the Division; states eligibility is subject to available funding; and makes clear that EES is the payer of last resort.

**Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education, said in the past the Board has struggled to interpret legislative intent, so it is important to codify EES to provide clear direction on what the legislature wants for the program. She stated the original bill was based on the ideal of how the Division wanted to administer the program, but they could not come to an agreement with all the stakeholders. The amendments include that EES is the payer of last resort and expands the services available.

**Sen. Mortimer** stated as far as possible, the bill tries to maintain the status quo. He agreed it is compromise legislation, so some stakeholders don't like some parts of the bill.

**Trinity Nicholson**, Executive Director, Panhandle Special Needs; **Hannah Liedkie**, Opportunities Unlimited, Inc.; and **Maureen Stokes**, President and CEO, Witco, spoke **in support** of the bill. They said this allows for growth based on individual needs and is an Idaho solution to codify an important program.

**Tracy Warren**, Program Specialist, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities; and **Bill Benkula**, WDB, Inc., spoke **in opposition**. They stated employment beyond facilities-based work should be an option and expressed concern that a provision to pay minimum wage is not included in the bill. They argued the amended bill maintains services which need improvement and testified not all stakeholders were included in the process.

**Sen. Mortimer** was recognized to close testimony. He said he does not think the bill restricts other opportunities and stated the original bill was not collaborative. He tried to address many of the concerns, but felt minimum wage was better to address another year. He stated the bill is important to codify the EES program and give a starting point.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Marshall** made a motion to send **S 1330aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Reps. Ehardt, Raymond, McCrostie** and **Moon** spoke **in support** of the motion. They thanked **Sen. Mortimer** for his efforts and spoke approvingly of the EES program.

**Rep. Berch** spoke **in opposition** to the motion, saying he did not think the bill should carry a do pass recommendation because it is last minute and there is concern not all stakeholders were included.

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

**SCR 128:** **Rep. DeMordaunt** presented **SCR 128**, which encourages teaching personal finance in schools. She acknowledged **Tony Hilde** and **Joe Gossi**, teachers at Eagle High School, for their work in this area.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Marshall** made a motion to send **SCR 128** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**SCR 122:** **Vice Chairman Kerby** presented **SCR 122**, which suggests the State Board of Education and State Department of Education place more emphasis on career technical education (CTE) in high school graduation requirements. He noted only 4% of dual credit earned is for CTE and encouraged looking at other states who have both foundational and personalized graduation requirements.

**Sen. Thayne** said this supports the direction the Board is already moving in.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Marshall** made a motion to send **SCR 122** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Vice Chairman Kerby** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 am.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Erica McGinnis  
Secretary