

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 14, 2024

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill (Brown), Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Boyle

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chair Yamamoto called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 529: **Sen. Den Hartog** presented **H 529**, proposed legislation regarding the Public Charter School Revolving Loan Fund. She said this legislation would provide new public charter schools with a zero percent interest loan to assist with facility acquisition, construction or renovation. She explained a technical correction to the statute in regards to the Idaho Housing and Finance Association.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to send **H 529** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 31308: **Rep. Wheeler** presented **RS 31308**, proposed legislation regarding age-appropriate Holocaust education. **Rep. Mickelsen** explained why this legislation is presented as a resolution instead of a bill. Committee members discussed other types of history not be forgotten.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to introduce **RS 31308.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31342: **Rep. Galaviz** presented **RS 31342**, proposed legislation regarding reading assessment exemption which would replace **H 451.** She said this legislation would include a section on dyslexia.

MOTION: **Rep. Lanting** made a motion to introduce **RS 31342.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 500: **Rep. Clow** presented **H 500**, legislation regarding the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship. He said this legislation would eliminate the potential for duplication of funding for students who may qualify for the Opportunity Scholarship and Idaho Launch Grants. He explained how students would be allowed to use the funds at a community college and spoke about availability adjustments made for adult students.

In response to committee comments, **Rep. Mathias** said the legislative intent would help part time students as well as full time students.

MOTION: **Rep. Nelson** made a motion to send **H 500** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Clow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 539: **Rep. Mathias** presented **H 539**, legislation regarding the handling of harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students. He said this legislation would require corresponding action be done and update recording requirements. He stressed the importance of support for parents by providing information about mental health awareness.

Committee members spoke about local district policy and proper training. They said schools may have differing views of the definition of bullying and mentioned guidance for school districts. Suicide prevention and possible school shooting was discussed. They also spoke about parent liability for student actions.

Ryan Cantrell, Chief Deputy Superintendent, State Department of Education, spoke in response to committee questions. He said the cost and burden this legislation may require differs depending on current policy at schools and districts. He explained the need for administrators to not just provide material but to take action. Student survey's and student behavioral mental health working groups were also discussed.

Those speaking **in support of H 539**, were **Morgan Ballis**, School Resource Officer, and **Katie Russell**, Idaho School Boards Association. They said **H 539** would help bring equity to school safety practices, communication, and parent engagement concerning violence and self-harm prevention.

MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a motion to send **H 539** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members said parents and families are critical partners with schools and spoke about the need to address these issues.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chair Yamamoto** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 539** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** Rep. Mathias will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary