

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 08, 2024

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Wisniewski

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 29, March 1, 4, and 5, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1308: **Sen. Den Hartog** presented **S 1308**, legislation regarding education and adoption. She spoke about options for unplanned pregnancy, including adoption education.

MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to send **S 1308** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ehardt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1359: **Sen. Den Hartog** presented **S 1359**, legislation regarding educational advanced opportunities. She said this bill would increase funds for advanced opportunities and raise the cap on allotted number of courses and funds distributed per student, per year. She spoke about non-public student qualifications, usage, and reimbursement.

MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to send **S 1359** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1362aa: **Rep. Price** and **Sen. Trakel** presented **S 1362aa**, legislation regarding third party flags in public schools. They said this bill would create a non-political environment for children in the classroom.

Kristi Hardy testified in support of **S 1359**. She spoke about public classrooms and division verses unity.

Those speaking in opposition to **S 1359** were **Mistie Tolman**, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates, **Liliana Rauer**, **Julia Sharkey**, Idaho Education Association, **Julianne Donnelly Tzul**, ACLU of Idaho, and **Nissa Nagel**. They spoke about experiences, vulnerability, unification, acceptance, and student safety.

Committee members spoke about unification, language in the bill, certain teaching aides, the National Motto, school policies and penalties.

MOTION: **Rep. Hawkins** made a motion to send **S 1362aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members discussed political ideology, the "official" American flag, and focusing on education. They spoke about the First Amendment and local level policy. They mentioned school and club flags.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Mathias made a substitute motion to **HOLD S 1362aa** in committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE: Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE, 5 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Yamamoto, McCann, Clow, Garner, Lanting, Nelsen, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, and Mathias. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Mendive, Ehardt, Hawkins, Hill, and Price. Rep. Wisniewski was absent/excused.**

S 1361aa: Rep. Nelsen and Sen. Carlson presented **S 1361aa**, legislation regarding public school district boards. They said this bill would adopt procedures for regular school board meetings and allow public participation, regarding agenda items.

Pam Johnsen testified in support of **S 1361aa**. She spoke about public participation and parental rights.

Jim Foudy, Superintendent, Blaine County School District, testified in opposition to **S 1361aa**. He spoke about elected local board members, public comment policies, and board meeting transparency.

Quinn Perry, Idaho School Boards Association, testified as being **neutral** to **S 1361aa**. She spoke about local school boards, reasonable time limits, and agenda items. She said this bill would enhance policy and statute.

Committee members spoke about civil disobedience, exceptions, and language in the bill.

MOTION: Rep. Ehardt made a motion to send **S 1361aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Nelsen** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:57 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary