

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 07, 2017

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman McDonald, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Zach Brooks, Idaho 2nd Amendment Alliance; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News

Chairman VanOrden called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

MOTION: **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2017 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Brian Whitlock, Idaho Hospital Association President and CEO, IRON President and Chief Executive Officer, presented Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON) Update. IRON is a part of Regional Optical Network (RON), a non-profit organization providing very high-speed networks that enable research and education. Regional Optical Networks are debt free and exist for benefit and impact, not for profit. IRON has enabled Idaho to become a nerve center of the national high speed internet that connects education and research institutions to enhance economic development in Idaho and the nation. They are constantly improving data communication making Idaho a hub connector and one of the top states in connection and expansion. IRON's Charter Associates includes Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Idaho Hospital Association, Idaho Department of Administration and all of the universities and colleges. Their General Associates include Commission for Libraries and Center for Advanced Energy Studies.

Mr. Whitlock explained the future of research, education, healthcare and transparent government depends on adequate bandwidth. IRON keeps Idaho connected internally and externally with the world's fastest networks and advanced research at minimal cost to institutions. They are "carrier agnostic" and use any hardware or vendors so they can serve Idaho with access to the fastest computers in the world. The future goal of IRON is to increase speed to all connections, create more inter-connections, leverage INL's Cybercore Integration Center and the Collaborative Computing Center. They currently have 10 gigs of dark fiber but are expanding to 100 gigs to constantly improve data communication. IRON is the key to success of higher learning in Idaho and an independent voice guiding Idaho's digital future.

Brent Stacey, Idaho National Laboratory Director of IRON Board, stated that IRON is the most reliable network and has the highest resiliency in the state. INL is the leader in the country in control systems, full scale infrastructure and modeling assimilation, making INL a great asset for Idaho.

H 240: **Rep Nate** presented **H 240** relating to authorizing school districts to adopt an elective course in firearms safety education in secondary schools and to authorize instructors. He explained this bill will help prevent accidental shootings and deaths. Stating that the states like Texas and Virginia who have been using the firearm safety class, have seen an 80% decline in gun accidents. Students will be taught by trained and certified instructors in a safe environment with no live ammunition while being taught the proper handling of guns.

Zach Brooks, Second Amendment Alliance Chairman, testified **in support of H 240**. He helped sponsor the current law that allows the Idaho public to carry without a permit. Over the last several years there has been an increase in the number of firearms purchased and their use, thus firearms safety is crucial for children because of their intense curiosity. He explained if you teach children while young about firearm safety, with age appropriateness, the accidents will decline.

ORIGINAL MOTION:

Rep. Moon made a motion to send **H 240** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. McCrostie made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 240** in committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Chairman VanOrden requested a roll call vote on the substitute motion to **HOLD240** in committee. **Motion carried by a vote of 9 AYE, 6 NAY. Voting in favor** of the substitute motion: **Reps. McDonald, Clow, Kerby, Cheatham, Amador, Kloc, McCrostie, Toone, VanOrden. Voting in opposition** to the substitute motion: **Reps. Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Syme.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Representative VanOrden
Chair

Ann Tippetts
Secretary