

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 18, 2018

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

**RS 25693** **Relating to Higher Education; Amend, and Establish Provisions. Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Office of the State Board of Education (SBE), presented **RS 25693** and explained the changes regarding the transfer of credits for the individuals who have received an Associate degree from a regionally accredited institution recognized by the SBE. She detailed the two amendments to the existing sections. The proposed legislation includes notification requirements to students regarding transfers.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said he is interested in the process of the reporting requirement and wonders if this might create an extra burden for institutions. He said he hopes Ms. Bent will be able to address that question when she returns to present the bill.

**MOTION:** **Senator Buckner-Webb** moved to send **RS 25693** to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**RS 25695** **Relating to Career Education; Provide Legislative Intent, Amend, Establish Provisions, and Sunset Date. Ms. Bent** presented **RS 25695** and said this legislation expands the program for agricultural and natural resources. She reminded the Committee of the 2014 enactment of incentive and start up grant programs. The proposed legislation would create a similar program for the following Career Technical Education (CTE) areas: business management and marketing, engineering and technology, family and consumer sciences, health sciences, and skilled and technical sciences. It would also provide technical assistance for all of the programs.

**Ms. Bent** said the legislation is two part; the creation of the program would begin in the next fiscal year. A year later, a third program, a workforce readiness incentive funding would begin. She explained the funding process for the programs.

**MOTION:** **Senator Nonini** moved to send **RS 25695** to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

**DOCKET NO:  
47-0101-1701**

**Rules of the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.** **Ms. Bent** presented **Docket No. 47-0101-1701** and stated the changes in this rule are to the incorporated by reference section. The proposed changes amend the date of the new version. She explained the policy manual outlines the procedures and practices for the individuals who work in the field for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). This change is to align the program's policy with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. She outlined the proposed changes and additions to the manual for the Committee. She said the changes are based on the federal requirements, which are referenced in each section.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked if there was any public input for the policy changes. **Ms. Bent** replied there was extensive input. The DVR worked with the Idaho State Rehabilitation Council and the providers of the services to gather input. **Ms. Bent** outlined the changes in the specific areas.

**Senator Den Hartog** asked if Ms. Bent knew how long these versions would be in practice. **Ms. Bent** replied she believes it will be an extended period of time before they amend the Rehabilitation Act again. The act is a federal law and is quite encompassing; taking a great deal of time to adjust. She explained DVR's desire to move those policies out of the manual and into the rule.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Mortimer** moved to accept **Docket No. 47-0101-1701**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO:  
55-0103-1701**

**Rules of Career Technical Schools.** **Ms. Bent** presented **Docket No. 55-0103-1701** and explained the changes amend the section of the rule regarding to the Career Technical Education (CTE) schools added cost funding and program components. She said the proposed amendments will update the rule to current terminology and remove outdated language that no longer conforms to Idaho Code. She stated these were last updated in 2001. The additional changes streamline the requirements for identifying different CTE schools and make the provisions more transparent. She said CTE worked extensively with the schools and CTE educators. She stated all were in support of the changes. **Ms. Bent** explained none of the changes will adversely impact the schools in CTE programs.

**Ms. Bent** explained the definition changes; she said they are intended to eliminate confusion and to bring the rules into compliance with Idaho Code. She clarified the changes to the program criteria for the CTE schools and outlined the required CTE courses and competency standards for students and instructors.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked if the program requirement of five semesters is a barrier for participation. **Ms. Bent** referred the question to Amy Lorenzo, Policy Director, CTE. **Ms. Lorenzo** said CTE analyzes the breadth and depth of course offerings. The key distinction of the five-semester direction is to ensure the program will meet the program standards. The intent is to provide the student a high-end CTE experience which exceeds comprehensive high school education.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked Ms. Lorenzo to provide an example of a five-semester course. **Ms. Lorenzo** gave as an example the certified nursing assistant (CNA) program. In that instance, more semesters experience allows the student to have more practice and a better understanding of the profession, which makes the student more likely to pass the exam. She emphasized the local districts determine the course offerings.

**Chairman Mortimer** expressed concern regarding semester requirements. He stated it makes the programs inflexible and potentially incompatible with the ever-changing demands in industry. He asked if these requirements should be in rule. **Ms. Lorenzo** replied this rule is in place to keep CTE schools accountable. She stated the programs in the CTE schools need to be better and more comprehensive than those available in a traditional high school.

**Chairman Mortimer** said he does not believe this proposed change will accomplish those objectives. He said this is restricted by time, not by content. He concluded CTE should be moving to content mastery-based education as opposed to time spent in the classroom.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** asked how this fits with the capstone project. **Ms. Lorenzo** said it depends on the composition of the program. She explained there are specific sets of standards for each area of knowledge and detailed how a student will demonstrate proficiency. **Vice Chairman Thayn** asked how a student would be impacted if they demonstrate their competencies and are certificated in less than five semesters. **Ms. Lorenzo** explained the delivery of the education is linear and sequential and it would be difficult for a student to be certified before completing the five-semester requirement. The time frame ensures the standards are being met.

**Senator Guthrie** stated workforce needs are changing rapidly. His concern is this rule is too restrictive based on the demands of industry. Students may be able to attain mastery in less than five semesters.

**Ms. Bent** continued to review the changes in the docket and explained the deletions regarding interpersonal and cross-functional skills offered in CTE programs. She said the CTE schools added cost funding unit has been removed because it is addressed in Idaho Code § 33-102g. She explained the changes to definitions, program titles, and funding requirements were made to align with Idaho Code.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said this section pertains to career technical schools. He asked if Ms. Bent would explain to the Committee the difference between CTE schools and typical high schools. **Ms. Bent** explained the differences and described the students and regions in the State. She stated there are 17 CTE schools in Idaho.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Mortimer** moved to accept **Docket No. 55-0103-1701** except **Section 102.02.f**. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion.

**Chairman Mortimer** explained his motion. He commented the section is too restrictive and unnecessary.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** said he will allow comments from CTE.

**Ms. Bent** replied CTE can work with these programs without the required five semesters to ensure that the standards are met while new language is crafted for the docket to be acceptable to the Committee.

**Senator Den Hartog** called for a point of order. She said because there is a motion on the table the discussion should be amongst the Committee members only.

**Vice Chairman Thayn** acknowledged the point of order is correct. He said he would like to allow testimony because of the work CTE conducted to bring this rule forward.

**Ms. Lorenzo** said the reason for the five semester requirement is funding. CTE schools are funded based on the average daily attendance formula. For those programs to be fully funded at a level that will meet industry requirements, schooling timeline requirements are necessary.

The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.  
55-0104-1701**

**Rules Governing Idaho Quality Program Standards Incentive Grants and Agricultural Education Program Start-Up Grants.** **Ms. Bent** presented **Docket No. 55-0104-1701** and said this pertains to high-quality agricultural programs and agricultural startup programs that are based on legislation from 2014. She said the proposals allow for priority funding when there is not enough grant money to fulfill all eligible requests. She explained the process for startup programs to be eligible for the incentive grant requests and the change increases from one year to three years. She said this also clarifies eligibility restrictions and the payment process of the grant funds to the recipients.

**Senator Den Hartog** said she understands the reasons for the priority ranking for funding. She asked what would happen if during the next application cycle, there are better candidates than those who were deemed eligible to receive priority status for funding. **Ms. Bent** replied the prioritizing does not guarantee that they would receive the funds. She explained a scenario where priority candidate would receive the funding.

**TESTIMONY:**

**Shawn Dygert**, Legislative Liaison, Idaho Agricultural Teachers Association (IATA) spoke in support of the rule change. He stated IATA worked in conjunction with CTE to develop this rule change. He addressed Senator Dan Hartog's question and explained how the ranking process works. This change will move the grant from a competitive grant to a granting process that rewards many deserving programs across the state. He explained the process to determine which group qualifies for the initiative grant.

**Senator Guthrie** asked how many applications are submitted each year, and of those submitted, how many qualify. He asked if the program is expected to grow. **Mr. Dysart** replied over 40 teachers applied and 30 received grants. He said the program is growing each year.

**Chairman Mortimer** asked if those who apply but don't meet the criteria will they qualify for the grant funds. **Mr. Dygert** replied he understands the rule to mean those who qualify for the grant are part of the rotation.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Guthrie** moved to accept **Docket No. 55-0103-1701**. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Thayn passed the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary