

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 22, 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. Mathias

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 9:01 am.

RS 31370: **Chair Yamamoto** explained the motion for **RS 31370**, proposed legislation presented February 21, 2024, regarding limitations on county and municipal indebtedness, was out of order. The deadline for introducing Joint Resolutions has past and would require a signed letter from leadership allowing the introduction.

Rep. Furniss explained how constitutional changes require legislation be a joint resolution. He said the deadline for introducing joint resolutions was legislative day 36. He obtained a letter from leadership, waiving the deadline provision which allows for the introduction of **RS 31370**.

RS 31419: **Rep. Horman** presented **RS 31419**, proposed legislation regarding the broadband infrastructure fund. She said this legislation would change the state agency from the "State Department of Education" to the "State Board of Education."

MOTION: **Rep. Berch** made a motion to introduce **RS 31419**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31234: **Rep. Palmer** presented **RS 31234**, proposed legislation regarding School Boards and libraries. He said many schools do not utilize the library and this legislation would allow a school district board to determine whether to equip and maintain a library in any school.

MOTION: **Rep. Lanting** made a motion to introduce **RS 31234**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to move **RS 31459** to the top of the agenda. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31459: **Rep. Raybould** presented **RS 31459**, proposed legislation regarding early childhood services. She spoke about family choice and accountability for the use of public funds. She mentioned an incorrect implementation date of July 1, 2025 and said it should read July 1, 2024.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to introduce **RS 31459** with the correction date of July 1, 2024 in section 3. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Margie Gonzalez, Executive Director, Idaho Commission of Hispanic Affairs, spoke about Hispanic education in Idaho. She spoke about enrollment percentages, achievement test results and Hispanic enrollment at public postsecondary institutions in Idaho. She explained some challenges, such as test scores, academic achievement gaps, increase in bilingual educators, and representation on school boards. She spoke about recruiting and retaining teachers of color.

Dr. Tracy Farnsworth, President and CEO, College of Osteopathic Medicine (ICOM), gave an update on Idaho's first medical school. He spoke about ICOM partnerships with Idaho hospitals, health systems and the medical community. He spoke about student academic and professional performance and the need for more doctors in Idaho.

Jeff Murray, third year student, ICOM, said he is a graduate of the University of Idaho. **Annie Hoffman**, second year student, ICOM, said she is a graduate of Boise State University. They spoke about their experiences at ICOM.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:59 am.

Representative Yamamoto
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary