

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, March 08, 2019

**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Shepherd, Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Goesling, Marshall, Raymond, Wisniewski, McCrostie, Abernathy, Berch

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Abernathy

**GUESTS:** Paul Stark and Kari Overall, IEA; Shalene French, Julie Mead and Jodie M. Mills, CSD 132; Clark Corbin, Idaho Ed News; Marilyn Whitney, SDE

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

**RS 26879:** **Rep. Mendive** presented **RS 26879**, which would establish an education savings account (ESA) to be used for K-12 education. Parents must apply for an account, the state would deposit money and then the parents must spend the funds on designated education expenses. In the first year of the program, only students who have not previously attended school and Special Education students would be eligible. If 90% of the students who used an ESA would have otherwise attended public school, the legislation would be revenue neutral. He stated this would allow true education choice, not just school choice, because parents would be able to find and fund the most desirable pathway for their children's education.

**MOTION:** **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to introduce **RS 26879**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Berch, McCrostie** and **Goesling** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**S 1060aa:** **Sen. Thayn** presented **S 1060aa**, which offers another way for motivated students to experience high school by giving them the option to graduate early or take a flexible schedule. To be eligible, a student must be at least 16, maintain a 3.5 GPA, have parental permission, achieve a certain college and career readiness score, and file notice with their school, including an essay explaining why they either want to graduate early or have a flexible schedule. Students who graduate early must still complete their senior project, government credits, economics credit and civics test. Those who graduate early will receive a scholarship of 65% of their existing senior year funding; the remaining 35% would go to the district.

**Sebastian Griffin**, Senior Class President, Nampa High School, coauthored the bill and discussed how he would have taken advantage of these options.

In response to Committee questions regarding the eligibility requirements, **Sen. Thayn** stated a student will be motivated to earn high grades and test scores so they can have a flexible schedule. The State Board of Education will determine the necessary ACT/SAT scores. He anticipated most students would take advantage of the flexible schedule, rather than graduating early. He also stated he was not opposed to taking into account a student's extracurricular activities.

**Kari Overall**, President, Idaho Education Association, spoke **in opposition** to the bill and expressed concern about the focus on test results as the sole measurement of college readiness. She also stated teachers needed to be involved in developing eligibility criteria.

**Sen. Thayne** and **Mr. Griffin** were recognized to close testimony on **S 1060aa**. They stated this bill is valuable because it will give students ownership of their education and provide another option in the education system. They noted no student is required to take a single test to graduate from high school.

**ORIGINAL MOTION:**

**Rep. Boyle** made a motion to send **S 1060aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Rep. McCrostie** made a substitute motion to send **S 1060aa** to General Orders. He stated his intention was to strengthen the eligibility requirements and take student involvement into account.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN:**

**Rep. Boyle** withdrew her original motion to send **S 1060aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. McCrostie** will sponsor the bill on the floor. **Reps. McCrostie** and **Goesling** indicated their willingness to work on amendments.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Goesling** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2019; February 27, 2019; February 28, 2019; and March 1, 2019 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Clow** provided an update on the funding formula draft legislation. He stated it was important to put an RS before the Committee and if introduced, make it available for public comment. Regarding student weights, he stated the first year weight and subsequent floor will be 10%. The draft will also use the counts from each enrollment date throughout the year.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 am.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Erica McGinnis  
Secretary