

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 10, 2020

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, 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 Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m. and opened with a reading from the book, *A Heap O 'Living Along Life's Highway*, by Edgar A. Guest, the poem "Washington."

RS 27249 **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer for State Board of Education (Board), explained that the RS codifies a program that exists by appropriation and rule. She explained that the codification of the Extended Employment Services program would address many of the challenges that the program faces. **Ms. Bent** explained the purpose and services of the program, to help those with disabilities enter the workforce.

MOTION: **Senator Buckner-Webb** moved to send **RS 27249** to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**, with **Senator Lent** requesting that he be recorded as voting nay.

RS 27679 **Senator Burgoyne** explained that the RS created a volunteer mentorship program to allow career professionals to mentor recently-graduated high school seniors to assist them in completing career readiness certifications. **Senator Burgoyne** explained that the volunteer mentors would be overseen by paid volunteer coordinators.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lent** asked why the current system is not working for high school students. **Senator Burgoyne** replied that there is no statewide program providing mentors to students, so there is no cohesive current system.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 27679** to print. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 27668 **Senator Ward-Engelking** explained that **RS 27668** was brought forward to allow rural school districts to create their own educators. She went on to tell the Committee that the goal was to allow educators with provisional certifications to use professional development funds to work toward a full certification. **Senator Ward-Engelking** also shared that the RS opens the Opportunity Scholarship to educational paraprofessionals in order to allow them to get certified as teachers.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Thayn** moved to send **RS 27668** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 27551 **Senator Ward-Engelking** told the Committee that **RS 27551** seeks to incentivize teachers to stay in rural school districts by providing student loan forgiveness at an increased rate for each year a teacher stays in a rural school district, for up to five years.

Representative Toone shared that most Idaho schools are rural in nature, and that one in five rural students does not graduate. She continued that keeping quality teachers in rural schools would increase the graduation rate.

MOTION: **Senator Buckner-Webb** moved to send **RS 27551** to print. **Vice Chairman Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 27649 **Senator Den Hartog** presented **RS 27649** and told the Committee that it creates an enrollment-based funding formula. She went on that the RS provides a transition period and trial period for the state to analyze if the current Average Daily Attendance (ADA) based funding formula is more appropriate for funding Idaho schools. **Senator Den Hartog** also pointed out that a portion of **RS 27649** incentivizes success in certain vulnerable student populations.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Winder** asked when the new funding formula is proposed to go into effect. **Senator Den Hartog** responded that it is meant to go into effect for the 2021-22 school year.

MOTION: **Senator Lent** moved to send **RS 27649** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 27650 **Vice Chairman Thayn** told the Committee that the administrators of private schools had expressed that their students' parents were frustrated that their students had no access to funds for advanced opportunities. He continued that **RS 27650** opens the advanced opportunities funds for limited use by private school students.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** expressed concern that the Idaho State Constitution prohibits the use of public school funds for private school funds. **Vice Chairman Thayn** explained that the mechanics of the bill prevented this from being an issue. **Senator Winder** suggested obtaining an opinion from the Attorney General.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 27650** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**, with **Senators Ward-Engelking** and **Buckner-Webb** requesting that they be recorded as voting nay.

Chairman Mortimer told the Committee that **RS 27699** would precede **RS 27350**.

RS 27699 **Senator Lent** told the Committee that the RS allows industry professionals to access teacher mentorship to become career technical instructors and provides a way for them to enter into the education profession with a position on the career ladder that considers their industry experience in the calculation of their salary.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 27699** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 27350 **Senator Winder** presented **RS 27350** on behalf of Senator Crabtree. He explained that the RS added to the statute guiding which crimes disqualify a person from holding a teaching certification. He went on that the current statute only includes crimes against children, and that the RS includes the same crimes when they are committed against adults.

MOTION: **Senator Lent** moved to send **RS 27350** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

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

RS 27600C1 **Chairman Mortimer** told the Committee that **RS 27600C1** is a resolution to create an interim committee for reviewing Idaho content standards. He went on that the time had come to try to get the Idaho education community on the same page surrounding content standards. **Chairman Mortimer** told the Committee that creating a path forward for content standards is the best option for Idaho.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Winder** asked if the RS had any support in the House. **Chairman Mortimer** responded that the idea to have a resolution had started in the House, but that this resolution was different than the resolution that the House had put forward. Currently, there was no standing agreement in the House regarding **RS 27600C1**.

MOTION: **Senator Lent** moved to send **RS 27600C1** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Thayne passed the gavel back to Chairman Mortimer

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary

Juanita Budell
Assistant Secretary