

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 12, 2020

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, Rohn (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 3:04 p.m.

S 1323 **Senator Crabtree** told the Committee that Idaho Code does not prevent perpetrators of violence against adults from working in schools. He went on that **S 1323** prevents people convicted of violent crimes against children or adults from teaching or working schools.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked for clarifications on the types of crimes that would prevent a person from becoming a teacher. **Senator Crabtree** clarified that there would have to be proof that the crime was committed with intent to commit a serious felony.

Lisa Colon Durham, Director of Certification and Professional standards for the State Department of Education (Department), stood and told the Committee that there are certain crimes which will completely disqualify a person from certification, and others which can disqualify a person from certification. She also told the Committee that there are certificated individuals working in Idaho schools with the crimes under this bill, and that if they reapplied for certification, the Department would have to deny their application.

Senator Lent expressed that the bill could negatively affect individuals who had already made restitution for their past crimes.

Senator Crabtree closed by saying that Idaho students and teachers should have a reasonable expectation of safety in school and asked the Committee to send **S 1323** to the floor with a do pass recommendation

Senators Lent, Ward-Engelking, and Vice Chairman Thayn expressed thoughts that the bill may be too prohibitive. **Senator Winder** said that the bill addressed issues of security and protection of students.

MOTION: **Senator Woodward** moved to send **S 1323** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**, with **Senators Ward-Engelking, Rohn, and Lent** requesting they be recorded as voting nay.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Lent** moved to approve the Minutes from January 20, 2020. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Crabtree moved to approve the Minutes from January 21, 2020. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Vice Chairman Thayn moved to approve the Minutes from January 22, 2020. **Senator Woodward** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

Senator Ward-Engelking moved to approve the Minutes from January 23, 2020. **Senator Lent** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

**DOCKET NO.
08-0000-1900**

Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer for the State Board of Education, told the Committee that the docket re-codifies all the administrative rules from IDAPA 08 prior to July 1, 2019. She then detailed the sections of the rule that had been allowed to expire, all of which were allowed to expire because their provisions were governed in other sections of rule or code or because the programs they governed were never implemented. **Ms. Bent** briefly explained each of the sections of the docket and explained that any substantive changes to the rules had been presented as separate dockets. She explained that the separate dockets would override the sections in the omnibus rules.

TESTIMONY:

Dr. Lori Sanchez, Idaho Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (IACTE), testified in favor of the docket and spoke to the importance of rigorous professional teacher certification standards. She went on that IACTE wished to be included in the development of teacher certification standards.

Rod Gramer, President and CEO of Idaho Business for Education (IBE), spoke in support of the docket and of Idaho education standards, as they create confidence in businesses moving to Idaho that the workforce is well-educated.

Jay Larsen, Idaho Technology Council (ITC), spoke in support of the docket and of Idaho education standards, as they foster innovation and critical thinking in students. He went on that Idaho's math and science education standards are rigorous and contribute to the rapid growth in Idaho's computer science industries.

Quinn Perry, Policy and Government Affairs Director for the Idaho School Boards Association, spoke in support of the omnibus docket and to the content standards contained in the docket.

MOTION:

Chairman Mortimer moved to approve **Docket No. 08-0000-1900**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Mortimer told the Committee that keeping a foundation of standards is essential to the education system, and that Idaho must discuss the possibility of new standards.

Senator Ward-Engelking expressed the importance of keeping robust teacher certification standards.

Vice Chairman Thayn told the Committee that simplification and prioritization of standards was extremely important. He went on that the unified discussion of content standards was the best option. He concluded that before repealing current standards, there ought to be a plan for new standards.

Senator Winder told the Committee that there is still a large amount of work to be done surrounding content standards, but that there must be standards in place.

Senator Den Hartog told the Committee that she supports the concept of having a foundation for stability as the Legislature moves forward in further developing content standards for Idaho Education.

Senator Rohn voiced his support for the education standards and went on that no matter the standards, Idaho schools would continue to prepare students for college and careers.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to approve **Docket No. 08-0000-1900** 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 Committee at 4:04 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

Morgan Howard
Secretary