

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow (McClusky), Vice Chairman Kerby (Greig), Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto (Yamamoto), McCrostie, Berch, Toone

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) DeMordaunt, Galloway, Yamamoto

GUESTS: Mistie Tolman, Idaho State Director for Planned Parenthood Votes

Rep. Boyle called the meeting to order at 8:29 a.m.

H 330

Rep. von Ehlinger presented **H 330**. He explained there is a federal mandate that allows honorably discharged veterans to pay in state tuition in any state. Under that mandate veterans have 3 years from the end of their service to enroll in classes. This legislation would allow veterans to receive in state tuition in Idaho any time after their service. There is a piece of this legislation that requires these students to become full-time residents of Idaho within their first year of school. With the downturn in enrollment at Idaho universities, this would be a win-win for schools and universities.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. von Ehlinger** stated there is no state statute putting Idaho in compliance with the federal mandate. However, the universities themselves are in compliance. He explained this issue was brought to him by constituents but he does not have specific examples of veterans being denied in state tuition in Idaho.

Janet Jessup, a budget and policy analyst from the Legislative Services Office, gave further information on the fiscal note. She explained it was calculated by taking the number of out of state self reported veterans enrolled in Idaho universities and multiplying it by the difference between an average of Idaho universities' out of state and in state tuition rates. It was assumed all students were full-time so the fiscal impact can be expected to be smaller if some of these students were part time.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. von Ehlinger** clarified students who fall under this legislation will be required to become a resident of Idaho within their first year of education.

In response to further committee questions, **Ms. Jessup** explained the numbers in the fiscal note create a ceiling and the actual amount is expected to be lower. She further explained she did not distinguish between graduate and undergraduate students who are veterans.

Tracy Bent, Idaho State Board of Education, stood to answer additional committee questions. She explained the federal mandate trumps the state mandate this would create, and Idaho is in compliance with that federal mandate. The federal law also does not require the intention for the student to become a resident of Idaho.

In response to additional committee questions, **Rep. von Ehlinger** stated this legislation is written with the intent to motivate veterans to become residents of Idaho. He clarified the language of this bill was proposed by The Idaho Higher Education Presidents Leadership Council. He explained the extension beyond three years to enroll is a good feature of this bill since it is difficult to know where you want to go at the end of your service.

MOTION: **Rep. Marshall** made a motion to **HOLD H 330**.

In discussion of the motion the committee highlighted this legislation would not go into effect until July 1st, 2022. They urged that holding this bill would allow the committee time to revisit the language of the bill next session and make it as clear as possible and still have it go into effect on the same date. They expressed their intention to help veterans as much as they can, but there seems to be a lot of confusion surrounding this bill and it can be made tighter.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 329: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **H 329**. She explained this is a parental rights bill as well as protective legislation for Idaho schools. This legislation will require schools to publish a list of clubs that are formally accepted by the school as official clubs on their website. This list must also include the clubs' advisor, a general description and mission statement, any planned activities off campus, and a form or permission slip for the parent to sign before their child may participate in the club. There is a similar process already in place for Idaho sports this would just require the same of clubs.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Ehardt** explained when this list is officially published the schools will be released of liability from any non-official clubs that may form. She also clarified this legislation will not stop outside clubs who simply use the school property for meetings. The examples given were club sports and the Idaho High School Rodeo Association which often meet in school buildings. This bill does not stop students from getting together and calling themselves a club, but it does release the school from the liability of those gatherings.

MOTION: **Rep. Wisniewski** made a motion to send **H 329** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. McCrostie, Berch,** and **Toone** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Ehardt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Representative Boyle
Chair

Kennedy Jones
Secretary