

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 05, 2024

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Toews, Senators Den Hartog, Nichols, Carlson, Herndon, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth

**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 Lent** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.

**Chairman Lent** reordered the agenda and moved **H 644** to the first agenda item. **H 581** was moved to the last agenda item.

**H 644** **BOARD OF EDUCATION - Amends existing law to revise the appointment procedures for the Board of Education, including establishing geographical representation of seats on the Board of Education. Representative Raybould** provided an overview of **H 644**. She said that the bill created seven geographical regions for appointment to the State Board of Education. She clarified that each region was comprised of five legislative districts. She explained the process of the initial assignment of board members to regional positions by the Governor, and the subsequent assignment process as seats were vacated. She emphasized the importance of representation from all areas across the State.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Semmelroth** asked why the divisions were based on regional representation and not population representation. **Representative Raybould** clarified that the regions were population representation and that they aligned with legislative districts. She added that the regions were roughly proportional as related to population.

**Senator Nichols** asked if school boards provided feedback regarding **H 644**. **Representative Raybould** replied that the Idaho School Board Association was neutral on the bill. They did not perceive this as a direct impact to them. **Representative Raybould** remarked that she reviewed all statewide boards that were required by statute to have some type of regional representation. She said the State Board of Education was one of the outliers that did not have regional representation.

**Senator Herndon** requested that Representative Raybould provide her assessment on why regional representation was good for Idaho. **Representative Raybould** pointed to the fact that different regions of the Idaho had distinct economies and that the factors that drove each region were unique. In pursuit of a uniform school system, she said it was critical that all perspectives were at the table.

**Senator Carlson** inquired whether there was a provision in **H 644** to redraw boundaries if legislative boundaries changed in the future. **Representative Raybould** replied that nothing in **H 644** prevented redistricting

**MOTION:** **Senator Herndon** moved to send **H 644** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Carlson** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 500** **EDUCATION - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding qualification and requirements for the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship.** **Representative Clow** explained that **H 500** amended Chapter 43, Title 33 of Idaho Code "Idaho Opportunity Scholarship". He said it accomplished three changes in Code. **H 500** made it possible for community colleges to accept students with the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship and to accept their funds. The bill also stipulated that students were not eligible to receive the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship and the Idaho Launch Grant at the same time. Finally, he said **H 500** changed the amount of Idaho Opportunity Scholarship funds appropriated for adult learners from 20% to 5%.

**MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **H 500** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Nichols** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 581** **EDUCATION - Amends existing law to revise the powers of teachers in the classroom regarding when a teacher may physically escort a student out of class and when restraint or seclusion of a student must cease.** **Representative Erickson** explained that **H 581** reviewed the powers and duties section of Idaho Code 33-1224 and provided updated language to clarify the use of physical escort as a classroom management technique and further clarified when action was needed to terminate a physical restraint.

**MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **H 581** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

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Senator Lent  
Chair

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Lisa Stein  
Secretary