

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, January 18, 2021

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

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Den Hartog, Woodward, Lent, Johnson, Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson

**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 Thayn** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee to order at 3:01 p.m., and asked the secretary for a silent roll.

**RS 28156 RELATING TO THE IDAHO LITERACY ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT;** Consolidate Requirements for Literacy Intervention and Update Provisions. **Tracie Bent**, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, Idaho State Board of Education, explained the scope of this bill.

**MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **RS 28156** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**RS 28160 RELATING TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES;** Clarification of Salary Schedule for School Districts and Charter Schools. **Ms. Bent** explained the purpose of **RS 28160** was to include a definition of a salary schedule and provide a streamlined career ladder process for out-of-state instructional staff.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Crabtree** moved to send **RS 28160** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **Chairman Thayn** reviewed with the members of the committee a handout titled "Student Enrollment FTE Reporting Summary Report", furnished by the Idaho State Department of Education (ISDE), (see Attachment 1).

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

**DOCKET 08-0201-2001** **Rules Governing Administration (FTE Enrollment Reporting)** p. 6. **Ms. Bent** gave an overview of the changes made to this administrative rule since last year.

**DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Thayn** asked how completion of course work is currently defined. **Ms. Bent** said that decision is left up to each school district. **Senator Thayn** asked what metrics districts use to compile that data. **Ms. Bent** said the districts use multiple metrics.

**Senator Woodward** stated that this rule seemed to be repeating previous language. **Ms. Bent** stated that the language used is already in code for how average daily attendance (ADA) can be compiled but was being changed to better align with the current Idaho Code for online and virtual programs. **Chairman Thayn** said no vote would be taken on this rule today as this presentation was for clarification purposes only.

**Senator Den Hartog** stated that this rule still seemed like another way to calculate ADA. **Ms. Bent** stated that because schools had different paths to report ADA, this rule would allow schools to report via courses taken.

**Chairman Thayn** asked for clarification as to why Idaho citizens are paying to fund full-time equivalent (FTE) students if they are only in class for four hours a day. **Ms. Bent** stated that Idaho Code currently is paying FTE for four hours of attendance. **Chairman Thayn** asked what would happen if the rule was rejected. **Ms. Bent** said the edits would not be implemented, and the rule would return to the version that is no longer compliant with Idaho Code.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Crabtree passed the gavel to Chairman Thayn. **Chairman Thayn** then asked Julie Oberle, Chief Financial Officer, ISDE, to address the committee.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Senator Den Hartog** asked Ms. Oberle about the cost shift under the new rule. **Ms. Oberle** said more accurate data would be obtained by reviewing the budget sheets to give better estimates. **Senator Den Hartog** asked if school districts have to give a reason for making changes to their data after it is reported. **Ms. Oberle** said the districts must submit a letter outlining the changes and why they are being made. **Senator Den Hartog** asked how long districts have to correct student enrollment data. **Ms. Oberle** said they have three years to change data.

**Chairman Thayn** asked Ms. Bent how the proposed pending rule affects the reporting. **Ms. Bent** said the pending rule does not alter the old enrollment reporting, just the reporting of the FTE.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

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Senator Thayn  
Chair

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Florence Lince  
Secretary