

DISTRICT 18 DETAILER

"The Newsletter of Representative Branden J. Durst"

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From the desk...

Dear Reader,

I hope you find this newsletter full of useful information. As your elected state legislator, I am fully committed to working for you. I also hope you are able to provide me your input. By doing so, I will be better prepared to serve you and represent your interests in the Idaho State Legislature. If for any reason you have a question, concern or suggestion please let me know.

NEWS BITES

Rep. Durst introduces legislation to address small business health insurance.

Rep. Durst speaks at Idaho PTA panel discussion on education issues.

EDUCATION CUTS HIT BOISE SCHOOLS HARD

Two education proposals could have a potentially devastating impact on the Boise School District.

The first proposal, H117, would make substantial permanent changes to the personnel management in Idaho.

The legislation, being called "an omni-bus personnel bill" has several provisions.

One of the provisions would end the ability for school districts to offer multiyear contracts to educators. Multiyear contracts are the pre-

ferred option to large districts, including the Boise and Meridian School Districts due to the cost-savings they provide.

Under the proposal, school districts that currently utilize multiyear contracts would be required to pay any difference between the contract's compensation rate and any change in the State's reimbursement rate.

Another provision in H117 would require all teacher contracts to be reauthorized at the end

of each academic year. Both Boise School officials and educators have expressed concerns about how this instability would impact the district.

The proposal would also eliminate the early retirement incentive, freeze salaries for one year, and reduce salaries for educators and administrators. The second proposal, H118, focuses on transportation. The proposal has two primary provisions. The first provision would eliminate the

ability for high-density school districts, primarily the Boise School District, from utilizing the per mile reimbursement rate for transportation costs. This provision would cost the Boise Schools \$1.5 million.

The second provision would reduce the reimbursement rate from 85 percent to fifty percent.

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EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Education Committee met this week to discuss legislation that would have required students to stay in school until age 18. Currently law permits students to drop out of high school at age 16.

Discussion in committee was lively and focused on the impacts of high school dropouts on the economy and society.

The committee ended up rejecting the proposal on an eight to nine vote. Representative Branden Durst (D-18A) voted in the minority in favor of the proposal.



BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The House Business Committee heard a very complicated proposal regarding annuity. The proposal would change the guaranteed rate for annuities from \$100,000 to \$250,000 in the event that the firm offering the annuity were to become insolvent.

The change was prompted by the increase in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) rate for bank deposits by the same amount. Annuity firms claimed that the difference causes a competitive imbalance between themselves and the financial services industry. The committee voted unanimously to approve the legislation.

HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

This week the House Health and Welfare Committee discussed a rule governing pharmacy operations. The rule changes the number of pharmacy technicians that are permitted to be supervised by one pharmacist. Currently each pharmacist is limited to three pharmacy technicians. The proposed rule change would move the ratio to six.

The committee heard several pharmacists and pharmacy technicians that opposed the change. The rule was ultimately opposed by the committee, but due to its approval in the Senate will still go into effect.