

# 2024 Legislation

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25

The status of each bill, resolution, proclamation, and memorial is updated when the offices of the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House publish the un-official daily journals and should not be deemed official. The official bill actions are located in the final journal, which are maintained by the offices of the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House. **The daily journals are published at the end of each legislative day.**

Full Bill Information

### Individual Links:

[Bill Text](#)

[Statement of Purpose / Fiscal Note](#)

[Legislative Co-sponsors](#)

HCR025 ..... by EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION – States findings of the Legislature and encourages the Idaho State Department of Education to review and consider the adoption of age-appropriate Holocaust education in school districts and public charter schools.

02/14 Introduced, read first time, referred to JRA for Printing

02/15 Reported Printed and Referred to Education

02/21 Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation, Filed for Second Reading

02/22 Read second time; Filed for Third Reading

02/23 U.C. to hold place on third reading calendar until Monday, February 26, 2024

02/26 Read Third Time in Full – **ADOPTED - 62-0-8**

**AYES** – Achilles, Alfieri, Allgood, Andrus, Barbieri, Berch, Blanksma, Boyle, Bundy, Cannon, Cheatum, Chew(Hansen), Clow, Cornilles, Crane(12), Dixon(1), Dixon(24), Durrant, Ehardt, Ehlers, Erickson, Furniss, Galaviz, Gallagher, Gannon, Garner, Handy, Hawkins, Healey, Hill, Holtzclaw, Horman, Kingsley, Lambert, Lanting, Manwaring, Mathias, Mendive, Mickelsen, Miller, Mitchell, Monks, Necochea, Nelsen, Palmer, Petzke, Pickett, Price, Raybould, Raymond, Redman, Roberts, Sauter, Scott, Shepherd, Tanner, Weber, Wheeler, Wisniewski, Wroten, Yamamoto, Mr. Speaker

**NAYS** – None

**Absent** – Burns, Crane(13), Green, McCann, Rubel, Skaug, Vander Woude, Young

**Floor Sponsor - Wheeler**

Title apvd - to Senate

02/27 Received from the House passed; filed for first reading

Introduced, read first time; referred to: Education

03/05 Reported out of Committee with Do Pass Recommendation; to 10th order; held one legislative day

03/15Retained on calendar

03/18Read in full - **ADOPTED - 34-0-1**

**AYES** - Adams, Anthon, Bernt, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Hart, Hartgen, Herndon, Just, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Schroeder, Semmelroth, Taylor, Toews, Trakel, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Winder, Wintrow, Zuiderveld

**NAYS** - None

**Absent and excused** - Lee

**Floor Sponsor - Ward-Engelking**

Title apvd - to House

03/19Returned from Senate Passed; to JRA for Enrolling

Reported Enrolled; Signed by Speaker; Transmitted to Senate

03/20Received from the House enrolled/signed by Speaker

Signed by President; returned to House

03/21Returned Signed by the President; Ordered Transmitted to Secretary of State

Delivered to Secretary of State at 10:40 a.m. on March 21, 2024

AGENDA  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
9:00 A.M.  
Room EW41  
**Wednesday, February 14, 2024**

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew41/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#">H 529</a>	Charter school funding	Senator Den Hartog
<a href="#">RS 31308</a>	Holocaust education	Rep. Mickelsen
<a href="#">RS 31342</a>	Reading assessment exemption	Rep. Galaviz
<a href="#">H 500</a>	Opportunity scholarship	Rep. Clow
<a href="#">H 539</a>	School harassment and bullying	Rep. Mathias

**Testimony Limited to Two Minutes**

***Public Testimony Will Be Taken by Registering Through the Following Link:***  
***[Register to Testify](#)***

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Yamamoto  
Vice Chairman McCann  
Rep Boyle  
Rep Clow  
Rep Mendive  
Rep Ehardt

Rep Wisniewski  
Rep Garner  
Rep Hawkins  
Rep Hill (Brown)  
Rep Lanting  
Rep Nelsen

Rep Price  
Rep Sauter  
Rep Berch  
Rep Galaviz  
Rep Mathias

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Amy Bengtzen  
Room: EW58  
Phone: 332-1148  
Email: [hedu@house.idaho.gov](mailto:hedu@house.idaho.gov)

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024
- TIME:** 9:00 A.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW41
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Boyle, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill (Brown), Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Boyle
- GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.
- Chair Yamamoto** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 529:** **Sen. Den Hartog** presented **H 529**, proposed legislation regarding the Public Charter School Revolving Loan Fund. She said this legislation would provide new public charter schools with a zero percent interest loan to assist with facility acquisition, construction or renovation. She explained a technical correction to the statute in regards to the Idaho Housing and Finance Association.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to send **H 529** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- RS 31308:** **Rep. Wheeler** presented **RS 31308**, proposed legislation regarding age-appropriate Holocaust education. **Rep. Mickelsen** explained why this legislation is presented as a resolution instead of a bill. Committee members discussed other types of history not be forgotten.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Garner** made a motion to introduce **RS 31308**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31342:** **Rep. Galaviz** presented **RS 31342**, proposed legislation regarding reading assessment exemption which would replace **H 451**. She said this legislation would include a section on dyslexia.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Lanting** made a motion to introduce **RS 31342**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 500:** **Rep. Clow** presented **H 500**, legislation regarding the Idaho Opportunity Scholarship. He said this legislation would eliminate the potential for duplication of funding for students who may qualify for the Opportunity Scholarship and Idaho Launch Grants. He explained how students would be allowed to use the funds at a community college and spoke about availability adjustments made for adult students.
- In response to committee comments, **Rep. Mathias** said the legislative intent would help part time students as well as full time students.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Nelson** made a motion to send **H 500** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Clow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Rep. Mathias** presented **H 539**, legislation regarding the handling of harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students. He said this legislation would require corresponding action be done and update recording requirements. He stressed the importance of support for parents by providing information about mental health awareness.

Committee members spoke about local district policy and proper training. They said schools may have differing views of the definition of bullying and mentioned guidance for school districts. Suicide prevention and possible school shooting was discussed. They also spoke about parent liability for student actions.

**Ryan Cantrell**, Chief Deputy Superintendent, State Department of Education, spoke in response to committee questions. He said the cost and burden this legislation may require differs depending on current policy at schools and districts. He explained the need for administrators to not just provide material but to take action. Student survey's and student behavioral mental health working groups were also discussed.

Those speaking **in support of H 539**, were **Morgan Ballis**, School Resource Officer, and **Katie Russell**, Idaho School Boards Association. They said **H 539** would help bring equity to school safety practices, communication, and parent engagement concerning violence and self-harm prevention.

**Rep. Berch** made a motion to send **H 539** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members said parents and families are critical partners with schools and spoke about the need to address these issues.

**Chair Yamamoto** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 539** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** Rep. Mathias will sponsor the bill on the floor.

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.

AGENDA  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
9:00 A.M.  
Room EW41  
Wednesday, February 21, 2024

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ew41/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
	Budget & Policy Analysis	Jared Tatro, Deputy Division Manager, Budget & Policy Division
<a href="#">RS 31370</a>	Indebtedness, limits	Rep. Furniss
<a href="#">H 580</a>	Military leave, public schools	Rep. Bundy
<a href="#">H 581</a>	Teachers, corporal punishment	Rep. Erickson
<a href="#">HCR 25</a>	Holocaust education	Rep. Wheeler

***Public Testimony Will Be Taken by Registering Through the Following Link:***  
***[Register to Testify](#)***

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Yamamoto  
Vice Chairman McCann  
Rep Clow  
Rep Mendive  
Rep Ehardt  
Rep Wisniewski

Rep Garner  
Rep Hawkins  
Rep Hill  
Rep Lanting  
Rep Nelsen  
Rep Price

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Amy Bengtzen  
Room: EW58  
Phone: 332-1148  
Email: [hedu@house.idaho.gov](mailto:hedu@house.idaho.gov)

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 21, 2024

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Yamamoto, Vice Chairman McCann, Representatives Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, Mathias

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chair Yamamoto** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

**Jared Tatro**, Deputy Division Manager, Budget & Policy Division, spoke about education budget recommendations to present to JFAC. He explained budget policy and negotiations, state wide impact, and demonstrated how to find budget analysis reports on the legislative website.

**RS 31370:** **Rep. Furniss** presented **RS 31370**, proposed legislation regarding limitations on county and municipal indebtedness, including schools. He spoke about statewide elections and percentage requirements to approve indebtedness.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Lanting** made a motion to introduce **RS 31370**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 580:** **Rep. Bundy** presented **H 580**, legislation regarding military leave for public school district and public charter school employees. He spoke about differing policies throughout the state concerning military leave and said this legislation provides support for military members by providing a minimum of ten paid contract days.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Lanting** made a motion to send **H 580** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Bundy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 581:** **Rep. Erickson** presented **H 581**, legislation regarding physical restraint. He said this legislation provides updated language to clarify use of physical escort as a classroom management technique and when action is needed to terminate a physical restraint.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to send **H 581** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Erickson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**HCR 25:** **Rep. Wheeler** presented **HCR 25**, legislation regarding Holocaust education. He spoke about developing resources and guidance for educators and accurate curriculum material. **Rep. Wheeler** stated **HCR 25** asks to prioritize Holocaust education in the next Idaho State Standards review.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **HCR 25** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Norma Staaf** testified in support of **HCR 25** and spoke about the value of teaching accurate history and said those who do not know history will repeat it.

**Pastor David McGarrah**, Christians United for Israel (CUFI), testified in support of **HCR 25**. He said there is a great need for this resolution and it is greatly overdue. He said CUFI leadership reviewed and support **HCR 25**.

Committee members commented on denial of history and the importance of properly educating students. They shared support of this legislation.

**Chair Yamamoto** called for a roll call vote on the motion to send **HCR 25** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by a vote of 16 AYE and 0 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Yamamoto, McCann, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, and Mathias. Rep. Wheeler** will sponsor the bill on the floor

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 am.

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ve Yamamoto

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Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary

**Pastor David McGarrah**, Christians United for Israel (CUFI), testified in support of **HCR 25**. He said there is a great need for this resolution and it is greatly overdue. He said CUFI leadership reviewed and support **HCR 25**.

Committee members commented on denial of history and the importance of properly educating students. They shared support of this legislation.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:**

**Chair Yamamoto** called for a roll call vote on the motion to send **HCR 25** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by a vote of 16 AYE and 0 NAY.** Voting in favor of the motion: **Reps. Yamamoto, McCann, Clow, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Hawkins, Hill, Lanting, Nelsen, Price, Sauter, Berch, Galaviz, and Mathias.** Rep. Wheeler will sponsor the bill on the floor

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 am.

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Representative Yamamoto  
Chair

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Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary

AGENDA  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
3:00 P.M.  
Room WW55  
Monday, March 04, 2024

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ww55/>

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>PRESENTER</b>
<a href="#"><u>HCR 25</u></a>	HOLOCAUST EDUCATION - States findings of the Legislature and encourages the Idaho State Department of Education to review and consider the adoption of age-appropriate Holocaust education in school districts and public charter schools.	Rep. Mickelsen
<b>PRESENTATION:</b>	The State Board's Open Education Initiative	Dr. TJ Bliss, Chief Academic Officer, Office of the State Board of Education

**Public Testimony Will Be Taken by Registering Through the Following Link:**  
[Register to Testify](#)

***If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.***

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Lent  
Vice Chairman Toews  
Sen Den Hartog  
Sen Nichols  
Sen Carlson

Sen Herndon  
Sen Lenney  
Sen Ward-Engelking  
Sen Semmelroth

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

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MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 04, 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 3:00 p.m.

**HCR 25** **HOLOCAUST EDUCATION - States findings of the Legislature and encourages the Idaho State Department of Education to review and consider the adoption of age-appropriate Holocaust education in school districts and public charter schools. Representative Mickelsen** spoke to **HCR 25**. She said that the impetus behind the bill was to counter growing Holocaust denialism and to set standards regarding Holocaust instruction in Idaho schools. **Representative Mickelsen** introduced Representative Ilana Rubel to tell her personal story about the Holocaust. **Representative Rubel** shared that she was Jewish and that her family was persecuted during the Holocaust. She voiced concern about the rise in Holocaust denialism and ignorance of Holocaust history. **Representative Rubel** introduced Representative Wheeler to explain **HCR 25**. **Representative Wheeler** commented that through the legislative process he and Representative Mickelsen received feedback to include other persecuted groups in the Holocaust standards, as well as information about the circumstances and policies that led to the genocide. He shared that a conversation they had with the Consul General of Israel was very powerful and helped drive **HCR 25**.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Lenney** asked for insight into what was currently taught in Idaho schools regarding the Holocaust. **Representative Wheeler** replied that there was a patchwork of instruction. He explained that this inconsistency was one reason for the resolution to adopt standards regarding Holocaust history instruction. He pointed out that local districts retained control and chose their own curriculum.

**Senator Nichols** asked Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction, whether Holocaust history was taught in Idaho schools. **Superintendent Critchfield** said that there were strands of Holocaust history in a variety of social studies topics. However, she pointed out that all standards were on a 5-year review cycle at which time topics were easily added or removed at the discretion of the review committee and leadership. She said that **HCR 25** established standards that remained despite who served on a committee or in leadership at the Department of Education in the future. **Senator Nichols** asked what the next steps were if the resolution passed. **Superintendent Critchfield** explained the Department of Education was currently in the cycle to review social studies standards which was ideal timing to guide and direct committee members on the standards. She added that the standards were then approved by the legislature in 2025 and sent to the school districts.

**Senator Lenney** asked why the focus was on one genocide and not on other world genocides or on the teaching of genocide in general. **Representative Wheeler** replied that **HCR 25** was a product of timing and a response to concerns expressed regarding Holocaust instruction.

**TESTIMONY:** **Norma Staaf** testified in favor of **HCR 25**. **Ms. Staaf** shared that she was the daughter of a World War II refugee and a history teacher. She expressed shock at the rise of Holocaust denialism and anti-Semitism in Idaho in recent years. She asserted that instruction about the Holocaust in the broader context proposed by this bill helped children to learn critical reasoning skills. She pointed out that those who do not know history were doomed to repeat it.

Written testimony submitted online from Ms. Staaf appears in Attachment 1.

**MOTION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **HCR 25** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **The State Board's Open Education Initiative.** **Dr. TJ Bliss**, Chief Academic Officer, Office of the State Board of Education, provided an update on the State Board's Open Education Initiative (Attachment 2). **Dr. Bliss** explained that the State Board of Education had a priority to increase access and affordability for students in higher education. One strategy that the State Board of Education and the legislature embraced was to decrease the cost of instructional materials. He shared that the State Board of Education adopted a policy called Instructional Materials Access and Affordability in 2021 which required 4-year institutions in Idaho to implement a plan to increase the access and affordability of instructional materials. The legislature appropriated funding in 2022 to support the initiative. He reported that the 4-year colleges made great progress in the effort to increase access and affordability by the establishment of institutional committees to steer cost saving strategies, systematic course markings, the development of zero-cost or very low cost pathways, and the inclusion of affordability efforts in the faculty tenure and promotion process. He shared a breakdown of the investment by the State of Idaho and the cost savings to students to date.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Nichols** asked Dr. Bliss if he expected more funding to be necessary. **Dr. Bliss** stated that the 4-year institutions spent more efficiently than anticipated. He added that funding from the original appropriation remained and that the institutions planned to develop more zero-cost or low cost pathways with it. He expressed the desire to observe as the institutions spent the available funding over the next one to two years. He said that he welcomed future investment but that it needed to be strategic.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:38 p.m.

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Senator Lent  
Chair

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Lisa Stein  
Secretary

### Senate Education Committee

Monday, March 04, 2024 - 3:00 P.M.

### TESTIMONY ON: All Subjects

#### Written Testimony

Name (First & Last)	Subject	Manner Testifying	Representing Company/Organization	City	For / Against	Wish to Testify	District #
Norma Staaf	HCR 25	V	self	Harpster	For	Y	7

My name is Norma Staaf, I live near Harpster in Idaho County, District 7. I am speaking for myself in support of HCR 25. I appreciate Reps Mickelsen and Wheeler for the thoughtful language and the values expressed in HCR 25. As the daughter of both a WW2 refugee and a history teacher I value the accurate teaching of history. People's lives depend on it. It is shocking to see the rise of holocaust denialism and anti-semitism in Idaho in recent years. The increased support for authoritarian leaders is even more frightening. Teaching children about the Holocaust in the broader context proposed in this bill will help them learn critical thinking skills. This may inspire our next generation to uphold democratic values, defend human rights by challenging misinformation, intolerance and discrimination. I am disturbed to read bills and listen to debate in this building that demonstrate intolerance of others. My history teacher dad's frequent reminder that "those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it" has never been more important than today. Vote aye. Thank you for listening.