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LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-second Legislature Second Regular Session - 2014

IN THE _____

BILL NO. _____

BY _____

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY AND PROVIDING AN EFFEC-
TIVE DATE RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the Legislature to support and implement the recommendation of the 2013 Task Force for Improving Education regarding a mastery-based or competency-based educational system. (Task Force Summary Recommendation 1 and Structural Change Subcommittee Recommendation 1.1.) It is the further intent of the Legislature that the State Board of Education develop, and each district implement, a mastery-based system in which students advance based upon content mastery instead of completing a certain number of instructional hours, otherwise referred to as seat time, as currently provided for in statute. Such a mastery-based system must be measured against high academic standards.

SECTION 2. That Chapter 1, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-118B, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-118B. COMPETENCY-BASED SYSTEM. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33-512, Idaho Code, the state board of education shall develop, and each district shall implement, a competency-based system of promotion from grade to grade. The system shall include, but not be limited to, the following components:

- (a) Students advance upon mastery of subject matter;
- (b) Determination of mastery shall include explicit, measurable learning objectives;
- (c) Students shall receive timely support based on their individual learning needs; and
- (d) Learning outcomes will emphasize competencies that include the application of knowledge and that assess the development and application of other important skills.

(2) The state board of education is hereby authorized to promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. The board shall develop such rules through negotiated rulemaking.

SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the Legislature to support and implement the recommendation of the 2013 Task Force for Improving Education regarding literacy proficiency. (Task Force Summary Recommendation 3 and Structural Change Subcommittee Recommendation 1.3.) It is the further intent of the Legislature that the State Board of Education develop and implement a plan to require that each student demonstrate mastery of literacy before moving on to significant content learning. The Legisla-

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1 ture notes that before students can read to learn content in other subject
2 areas, they must master the skill of reading itself.

3 SECTION 4. That Chapter 1, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
4 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
5 ignated as Section 33-118D, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

6 33-118D. LITERACY PROFICIENCY. (1) The state board of education shall
7 adopt a requirement that students must demonstrate proficiency in reading by
8 the third grade.

9 (2) The state board of education is hereby authorized to promulgate
10 rules to implement the provisions of this section. The board shall develop
11 such rules through negotiated rulemaking.

12 SECTION 5. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the Legislature to
13 support and implement the recommendation of the 2013 Task Force for Improv-
14 ing Education regarding advanced opportunities. (Task Force Summary Rec-
15 ommendation 4 and Structural Change Subcommittee Recommendation 1.4.) It
16 is the further intent of the Legislature that the state help ensure that all
17 students have access to advanced opportunities by expanding post-secondary
18 course offerings to students while they are in high school. The Legislature
19 notes that expanding advanced opportunities for students in high school im-
20 proves their readiness for college.

21 SECTION 6. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
22 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
23 ignated as Section 33-1626A, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

24 33-1626A. INCREASING COLLEGE READINESS. (1) The state board of edu-
25 cation is hereby directed to develop and adopt plans or programs to augment
26 and expand upon current advanced opportunities for students as provided by
27 the "8 in 6 Program," the "Dual Credit for Early Completers Program" and the
28 "Mastery Advancement Program." Any new plans or programs should provide ad-
29 ditional advanced opportunities to engage, challenge and reward the dedica-
30 tion and achievement by students while in high school.

31 (2) The state board of education is hereby authorized to promulgate
32 rules to implement the provisions of this section. The board shall develop
33 such rules through negotiated rulemaking.

34 SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this act are hereby declared
35 to be severable and if any provision of this act or the application of such
36 provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid for any reason,
37 such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of
38 this act.

39 SECTION 8. This act shall be in full force and effect on and after July
40 1, 2015.