IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1149

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTION 33-1271, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE LAN-GUAGE RELATING TO ENTERING INTO A NEGOTIATION AGREEMENT, TO PROVIDE FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN GOOD FAITH, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO A REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO RATIFICATION; AMENDING SECTION 33-1272, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE DEFINITIONS, TO DEFINE A TERM AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 33-1273, IDAHO CODE, TO CLARIFY THAT THE LOCAL EDUCATION ORGANIZATION SHALL BE THE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES IN THAT DISTRICT FOR PURPOSES OF NEGOTIATIONS PURSUANT TO LAW AND TO PROVIDE THAT NEGO-TIATIONS SHALL ONLY OCCUR BETWEEN CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. That Section 33-1271, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 33-1271. SCHOOL DISTRICTS -- PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES -- NEGOTIATION AGREEMENTS. The board of trustees of each school district, including specially chartered districts, or the designated representative(s) of such district, is hereby empowered to and shall, upon its own initiative or upon the request of a local education organization representing a majority of the professional employees, enter into a negotiation agreement with the local education organization or the designated representative(s) of such organization. and negotiate with such party in
- (1) The parties to such negotiations shall negotiate in good faith on those matters specified in any such negotiation agreement between the local board of trustees and the local education organization.
- $\underline{\mbox{(2)}}$ A request for negotiations may be initiated by either party to such negotiation agreement.
- (3) Upon either party making a request for negotiations, the local education organization, upon board request, shall provide to the district written evidence establishing that the local education organization represents fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the professional employees for negotiations. If requested by the board, the local education organization shall establish this representative status on an annual basis, prior to the commencement of negotiations.
- (4) Accurate records or minutes of the proceedings shall be kept and shall be available for public inspection at the office of the affected school district during normal business hours.
- (5) Joint ratification of all final offers of settlement shall be made in open meetings. Each party must provide written evidence confirming to the other that majority ratification has occurred.

SECTION 2. That Section 33-1272, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

33-1272. DEFINITIONS. Definition of terms aAs used in this act:

- (1-) "Professional employee" means any certificated employee of a school district, including charter districts; provided, however, that administrative personnel including superintendents, supervisors or principals may be are excluded from the professional employee group if a negotiation agreement between the board and local education organization so specifies for the purposes of negotiations.
- $\underline{(2-)}$ "Local education organization" means any local district organization duly chosen and selected by a majority fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the professional employees, excluding administrative personnel as addressed in this section, as their representative organization for negotiations under this act.
- (3-) "Negotiations" means meeting and conferring in good faith by a local board of trustees and the authorized local education organization, or the respective designated representatives of both parties for the purpose of reaching an agreement, upon matters and conditions subject to negotiations as specified in a negotiation agreement between said parties.
- For the purposes of this section, "good faith" means honesty, fairness and lawfulness of purpose with the absence of any intent to defraud, act maliciously or take unfair advantage or the observance of reasonable standards of fair dealing.
- SECTION 3. That Section 33-1273, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 33-1273. SCHOOL DISTRICTS -- PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES -- NEGOTIA-TIONS. The local education organization shall be the exclusive representative for all professional employees in that district for purposes of negotiations pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. The individual or individuals selected to negotiate for the professional employees shall be a member of the organization designated to represent the professional employees and shall be a professional employee of the local school district. However, in the event a local board of trustees chooses to designate any individual(s) other than the superintendent or elected trustee(s) of the school district as its representative(s) for negotiations, the local educational organization is authorized to designate any individual(s) of its choosing to act as its representative(s) for negotiations. A local board of trustees or its designated representative(s) shall negotiate matters covered by a negotiations agreement only with the local education organization or its designated representative(s) Negotiations pursuant to this chapter shall only occur between the respective designated representatives.
- SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this act are hereby declared to be severable and if any provision of this act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this act.

SECTION 5. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage and approval.