

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE EDUCATION STANDING COMMITTEE**

January 31, 2022

3:39 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Harriet Drummond, Co-Chair
Representative Andi Story, Co-Chair
Representative Tiffany Zulkosky
Representative Grier Hopkins
Representative Mike Prax
Representative Mike Cronk

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Ronald Gillham

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 164

"An Act relating to early education programs provided by school districts; relating to school age eligibility; relating to early education programs; establishing a parents as teachers program; relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to certification of teachers; establishing a reading intervention program for public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three; establishing a reading program in the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to a virtual education consortium; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 164

SHORT TITLE: EARLY ED PROGRAMS; READING; VIRTUAL ED

SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) TUCK

04/07/21	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/07/21	(H)	EDC, FIN
04/21/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
04/21/21	(H)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
04/23/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
04/23/21	(H)	Heard & Held
04/23/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)

04/26/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
04/26/21	(H)	Heard & Held
04/26/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
04/30/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
04/30/21	(H)	Heard & Held
04/30/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
05/03/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
05/03/21	(H)	Heard & Held
05/03/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
05/05/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
05/05/21	(H)	Heard & Held
05/05/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
05/06/21	(H)	EDC AT 6:30 PM DAVIS 106
05/06/21	(H)	Heard & Held
05/06/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
05/07/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
05/07/21	(H)	Heard & Held
05/07/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
05/08/21	(H)	EDC AT 9:00 AM DAVIS 106
05/08/21	(H)	Heard & Held
05/08/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
05/12/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
05/12/21	(H)	Heard & Held
05/12/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
05/14/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
05/14/21	(H)	Heard & Held
05/14/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
05/17/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
05/17/21	(H)	Heard & Held
05/17/21	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
05/19/21	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
05/19/21	(H)	-- MEETING CANCELED --
01/21/22	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
01/21/22	(H)	<Bill Hearing Canceled>
01/28/22	(H)	EDC AT 8:00 AM DAVIS 106
01/28/22	(H)	Heard & Held
01/28/22	(H)	MINUTE(EDC)
01/31/22	(H)	EDC AT 3:30 PM DAVIS 106

WITNESS REGISTER

MIKE MASON, Staff
Representative Chris Tuck
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided comment during the hearing on HB 164 on behalf of Representative Tuck, prime sponsor.

LÖKI TOBIN, Staff
Senator Mark Begich
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Offered information during the hearing on HB 164.

SUSAN MCKENZIE, Director
Innovation and Education Excellence
Department of Education and Early Development
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Responded to a question during the hearing on HB 164.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[3:39:29 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR ANDI STORY called the House Education Standing Committee meeting to order at 3:39 p.m. Representatives Drummond, Cronk, Prax, Zulkosky, Hopkins, and Story were present at the call to order.

HB 164-EARLY ED PROGRAMS; READING; VIRTUAL ED

[3:40:25 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 164, "An Act relating to early education programs provided by school districts; relating to school age eligibility; relating to early education programs; establishing a parents as teachers program; relating to the duties of the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to certification of teachers; establishing a reading intervention program for public school students enrolled in grades kindergarten through three; establishing a reading program in the Department of Education and Early Development; relating to a virtual education consortium; and providing for an effective date." [Before the committee, adopted as a working document during the 4/23/21 House Education Standing Committee meeting, was the proposed committee substitute (CS) for HB 164, Version 32-LS0731\I, Klein, 4/20/21, ("Version I").]

CO-CHAIR STORY noted that at its last hearing, the committee had heard about a new proposed committee substitute ["version G"] but had not yet adopted it. She said the remaining amendments

from Version I had been incorporated into Version G and amendments for Version G had been submitted.

[3:42:44 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND moved to adopt the proposed committee substitute (CS) for HB 164, Version 32-LS0731\G, Klein, 6/18/21, as a working document.

[3:43:10 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX objected. He indicated that the House version had already had significant changes made as compared to the companion bill in the Senate, and he did not want "to talk about this 'til the cows come home."

[3:44:47 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Zulkosky, Hopkins, Drummond, and Story voted in favor of the motion to adopt CS for HB 164, Version 32-LS0731\G, Klein, 6/18/21. Representatives Cronk and Prax voted against it. Therefore, Version G was adopted as a working document by a vote of 4-2.

[3:45:32 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY announced the committee would entertain amendments to Version G, of which there were 17 submitted.

[3:46:06 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS moved to adopt Amendment 1 to HB 164, Version G, labeled 32-LS0731\G.1, Klein, 1/24/22, which read as follows:

Page 4, line 14:

Delete "who is at least four years of age at the beginning of the school year"

[3:46:11 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CRONK objected.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS spoke to Amendment 1. He said the amendment would support reading at an earlier age, "not just one year before kindergarten starts." He said it could increase the fiscal note, but said the committee has a responsibility to put

forth good legislation to support educators and ensure the early success of students.

[3:47:44 PM](#)

The committee took a brief at-ease at 3:48 p.m.

[3:48:17 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS withdrew his motion to adopt Amendment 1.

[3:48:33 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS moved to adopt Amendment 2 to HB 164, Version G, labeled 32-LS0731\G.2, Klein, 1/19/22, which read as follows:

Page 5, line 29:
Delete "three-year"
Insert "five-year"

Page 6, line 19:
Delete "three-year"
Insert "five-year"
Delete "one-year"
Insert "two-year"

Page 6, line 20:
Delete "one additional fiscal year"
Insert "two additional fiscal years"

Page 6, lines 22 - 23:
Delete "that fiscal year"
Insert "the two fiscal years"

[3:48:38 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CRONK objected.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS spoke to Amendment 2. He explained that the extension for grant funding of pre-k programs from three years to five years would allow districts more time to put pre-k programs into base student allocations and get them "up and running."

[3:49:28 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND asked whether the bill sponsor's staff could comment on Amendment 2.

[3:49:34 PM](#)

MIKE MASON, Staff, Representative Chris Tuck, Alaska State Legislature, on behalf of Representative Tuck, prime sponsor of HB 164, offered his understanding that the only impact that Amendment 2 would have would be a fiscal one.

[3:49:57 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS noted the department may [emphasis on "may"] grant funding for a five-year period but would not be required to do so; therefore, the fiscal impact is unknown at this time.

[3:50:24 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND observed that the extension of the grant remains optional; under Amendment 2 it just changes the time from three years to five years.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS responded that that is his understanding.

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND said she is not certain that that much time is necessary because it should not take more than three years. She suggested it could be left at three years, with the option to request more time.

[3:52:05 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY asked whether the duration of time being discussed pertained to "the early education grant, itself."

[3:52:53 PM](#)

MR. MASON deferred to Löki Tobin.

[3:53:27 PM](#)

LÖKI TOBIN, Staff, Senator Mark Begich, Alaska State Legislature, explained that when assessing early education offerings in a district, if the department realizes the district does not meet the standards established under regulation, it can award a three-year grant to assist that district in bringing up the quality of its program. A one-year extension is allowed

after the three years, and again after the fourth year. She concluded, "So, up to five years of funding is allowed within this section of the bill."

[3:54:36 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND directed attention to page 6, line 3, of Version G, which shows a limit on the total amount of grant funding is \$3 million. She figured that means some districts applying for years two and three may not receive funds because of other districts applying for a fourth or fifth year of grant funds. She said she does think that is wise considering "we need to get this out to as many districts as possible."

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS noted that he has an upcoming amendment that will address that issue

[3:55:55 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY asked for confirmation that the purpose of Amendment 2 is not to expand the monetary funding available to school districts but rather to offer flexibility in terms of the timeline of the grant.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS confirmed that is correct.

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY pointed out that not all school districts "start at the same starting line" in terms of internal capacity or turnover levels. She said she supports offering greater latitude for school districts that "might not have capacity"; therefore, she supports Amendment 2.

[3:57:21 PM](#)

MS. TOBIN, in response to Co-Chair Story and Mr. Mason, clarified that Amendment 2 would make "every grant a five-year grant cycle." She referenced language on page 5, line 29, and emphasized that [with adoption of Amendment 2], it would specify funding for a five-year period, not "up to" five years.

CO-CHAIR STORY asked for clarification.

MR. MASON, after some study of the language, ascertained that Amendment 2 would be for five years, with two remediation years.

[4:00:27 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS said he would welcome an amendment to Amendment 2 but thinks flexibility is needed.

[4:01:22 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND expressed confusion, saying it sounds like Amendment 2 would not allow the department to stop giving a grant before five years, even if a district was meeting the standards. She expressed concern that taking away the option for adding two years to the three years is actually restricting flexibility.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS said he thinks Ms. Tobin said the department can [stop giving the grant funds] if the district is doing a good job.

MR. MASON directed attention to language on page 5, line 26, of Version G, which he interpreted as showing that the department has discretion.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS observed the flexibility noted in that language was the opposite of what he had just said, because the language talks about cutting off funds due to failure, not success. He asked Ms. Tobin to confirm whether [the department] can move [a district's program] to base student allocation early based on success.

[4:03:27 PM](#)

MS. TOBIN confirmed that the department can approve a program a program at any time. She added, "That approval means rolling it into the [average daily membership] (ADM)."

[4:03:51 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND asked if that which Ms. Tobin was confirming is found on page 6, lines 27-29.

MS. TOBIN answered that is correct.

[4:04:43 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Zulkosky, Hopkins, Drummond, and Story voted in favor of the motion to adopt Amendment 2. Representatives Prax and Cronk voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 2 was adopted by a vote of 4-2.

[4:05:41 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS moved to adopt Amendment 3 to HB 164, Version G, labeled 32-LS0731\G.3, Klein, 1/20/22, which read as follows:

Page 6, lines 2 - 3:

Delete "Unless the legislature appropriates another amount, total grant funding awarded to districts under this subsection may not exceed \$3,000,000 in a fiscal year."

Page 13, line 12:

Delete "and (f)"

Page 13, lines 18 - 28:

Delete all material.

Page 29, line 31, through page 30, line 7:

Delete all material.

Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

[4:05:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CRONK objected.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS spoke to Amendment 3. He emphasized the importance of not limiting how much funding can be moved forward, specifically by not having a cap of \$3 million. He highlighted giving the department flexibility.

[4:07:01 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Hopkins, Zulkosky, Drummond, and Story voted in favor of the motion to adopt Amendment 3. Representatives Prax and Cronk voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 3 was adopted by a vote of 4-2.

[4:07:52 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS moved to adopt Amendment 4 to HB 164, Version G, labeled 32-LS0731\G.4, Klein, 1/20/22, which read as follows:

Page 4, line 14:

Delete "four"

Insert "three"

Page 7, lines 4 - 6:

Delete all material and insert:

"(3) "early education program" means a program, the primary function of which is educational, for children ages three through five years."

Page 9, line 7:

Delete "four and five years of age"

Insert "ages three through five years"

Page 11, lines 19 - 20:

Delete "four and five years of age"

Insert "ages three through five years"

Page 12, line 5:

Delete "four and five years of age"

Insert "ages three through five years"

Page 12, line 13:

Delete "four and five years of age"

Insert "ages three through five years"

Page 13, lines 15 - 16:

Delete "four and five years of age"

Insert "ages three through five years"

Page 13, lines 18 - 19:

Delete "four and five years of age"

Insert "ages three through five years"

[4:07:57 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND objected for the purpose of discussion.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS spoke to Amendment 4. He said it would start education earlier, which would give students more time to prepare for kindergarten and first-, second-, and third-grade reading programs. He said science shows additional benefit to students by starting them at three years of age.

[4:09:36 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY mentioned the shortage of preschool teachers in Alaska, space constraints when "gearing up for something like this," and the possibility of giving flexibility to districts in

terms of including three- to five-year-old children. She asked if Amendment 4 would allow for that flexibility.

4:10:39 PM

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS answer no but pointed out that without Amendment 4, districts cannot lower the age. He talked about having a smooth transition from programs within the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) to programs within the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED).

4:11:32 PM

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND asked Representative Hopkins to clarify whether there is a gap between services offered through DHSS and school districts, in which case she said she would be amenable to Amendment 4.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS answered that within the Head Start program, there is "a discrepancy in that year three age that they work with." He said he is a proponent of age three being the starting point within the programs of DEED. In response to a follow-up question, he said he would have to do some research to find out whether other states have programs that include three-year-old children.

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND recalled testimony from child care providers concerned about losing those 3-year-olds to school districts, which would mean their losing business. She explained that is her concern with approving Amendment 4.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS acknowledged that concern, but he pointed to the lack of child care exacerbated by the pandemic, and he indicated he would like to see ways of bringing in more private child care programs through HB 164. He added, "It does hold the Head Start program - and other pre-k programs in place - harmless, so they would not be losing funding in discrepancy with this bill." He urged action taken on the lack of childcare that is resulting in people leaving the workforce and students' ability to learn being inhibited.

4:15:29 PM

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY asked for a recap on concerns related to the Head Start program and pre-k.

4:16:33 PM

MR. MASON responded the intent of the bill is not to impact Head Start, while Amendment 4 may do so, because parents may choose to send their children to a pre-K program rather than a Head Start program. He deferred to Ms. Tobin for further information.

[4:17:05 PM](#)

MS. TOBIN noted that past testimony had addressed the ability of Head Start to serve the populations within its communities. The program described under HB 164 would allow districts to communicate with Head Start and other early development programs - private or nonprofit - to develop a holistic system. She indicated that the change proposed under Amendment 4 to three years of age not only would increase the fiscal note of the bill but may also result in direct competition with those programs, putting in jeopardy the ability of Head Start "to serve communities in a particular way."

[4:17:50 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY asked Ms. Tobin to reference the language in the bill that relates to school districts consulting with Head Start providers in the development of programs.

MS. TOBIN cited language on page 6, lines 8-11, and on page 11, beginning line 21. She cited language in other parts of the bill that allow Head Start to continue in perpetuity without interference from DEED, in Section 4, on page 2, and in Section 11, [paragraph (2)], on page 10. She explained that the intent of these sections is to ensure the Head Start programs are not [adversely] impacted by HB 164 and to direct any district to consider Head Start offerings as they develop their early education programs.

[4:20:20 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY expressed hope that Alaska would be expanding its early childhood programs, and she expressed interest in finding out what the increase to the fiscal note would be as a result of Amendment 4.

[4:21:21 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY drew attention to language on page 6, lines 8-12, of Version G, which read:

A district is eligible for a grant if the department determines an insufficient number of children in the district attend high quality child care programs, including head start programs, early education programs provided by a local government, and early education programs provided by child development agencies, that

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY she said she does not see that as a child in larger population areas but asked how that would work in a smaller community that might have "just enough children to go into a Head Start program." She said she would like a refresher from DEED regarding a full program with potential to draw students into a pre-k program.

[4:22:58 PM](#)

SUSAN MCKENZIE, Director, Innovation and Education Excellence, Department of Education and Early Development, said she would need to research and return to the committee with an answer.

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY said she would like to hear back from DEED. She indicated that she would be amenable to Amendment 4 if she had a better understanding of how the department would interpret the language on page 6.

[4:24:29 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND suggested the committee delay a decision on Amendment 4, since the committee would be meeting again at 3:30 p.m. and on Friday.

[4:25:04 PM](#)

MS. MCKENZIE, in response to Co-Chairs Drummond and Story, confirmed she could get an answer to the committee later in the week.

[4:25:59 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS moved to table Amendment 4. [There being no objection, Amendment 4 was tabled.]

[4:26:21 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 4:26 p.m. to 4:33 p.m.

[4:33:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY asked to [not offer] Amendment 5, [which is in the committee packet but had not yet been moved for adoption].

CO-CHAIR STORY indicated Amendment 5 would [not be offered at the present time].

[4:34:22 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND moved to adopt Amendment 6 to HB 164, Version G, labeled 32-LS0731\G.9, Marx/Klein, 1/21/22, which read as follows:

Page 22, line 30, through page 23, line 15:

Delete all material and insert:

"(3) provide grants to a participating school district to hire a reading specialist and prescribe the specialist's duties in the grant award;"

Page 24, lines 21 - 23:

Delete all material and insert:

"(1) ensure that a reading specialist is not required to perform functions that divert the reading specialist from the duties assigned to the reading specialist;"

Page 25, line 21:

Delete "The department"

Insert "A school district"

[4:34:25 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CRONK objected.

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND explained that Amendment 6 had come from the bill sponsor's office.

[4:34:54 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 4:35 p.m. to 4:37 p.m.

[4:37:37 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND withdrew Amendment 6.

CO-CHAIR STORY announced there being no objection, Amendment 6 was withdrawn.

[Amendments 7 and 8 exist in the committee packet, but because the originator of the amendments was not known, they were not offered.]

[4:39:24 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 4:39 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.

[4:40:20 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY asked Ms. Tobin to address Amendment 9.

[4:40:26 PM](#)

MS. TOBIN offered her understanding that Amendment 9 was drafted prior to an amendment the committee adopted which changed previous bill language that established a virtual language consortium, by changing "consortium" to "library"; therefore, Amendment 9 would no longer be applicable to current bill language.

CO-CHAIR STORY said Amendment 9 [would not be offered].

[4:41:02 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND moved to adopt Amendment 10 to HB 164, Version G, labeled 32-LS0731\G.13, Klein, 1/19/22, which read as follows:

Page 27, line 16, following "districts":
Insert "and state-based professional development
platforms"

[4:41:17 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CRONK objected.

[4:41:30 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 4:41 p.m. to 4:43 p.m.

[4:43:04 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND relayed she had learned Amendment 10 was redundant; therefore, she [withdrew] Amendment 10.

CO-CHAIR STORY announced [there being on objection], Amendment 10 was withdrawn.

[4:43:33 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND explained that she had been told the same thing regarding Amendment 11, that it had been made redundant as a result of other changes already made to the proposed legislation; therefore, she said she would not offer it.

[4:43:48 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS, pointing to language on page 28, regarding how the library is structured, offered his understanding that Amendment 11 [not yet moved for adoption] would make "culturally responsive, evidence-based reading instruction" available to school districts, help teachers and paraprofessionals know what is available to them, lay out some of the things that could be available in the library, allow data analysis, and create support for educators. He asked Ms. Tobin for confirmation of that understanding.

[4:45:24 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX called a point of order, offering his understanding that the amendment needed to be moved for adoption before being discussed.

[4:45:36 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS moved to adopt Amendment 11 to HB 164, Version G, labeled 32-LS0731\G.15, Klein, 1/19/22, which read as follows:

Page 28, lines 2 - 11:

Delete all material and insert:

"(1) working with stakeholders to sustain a virtual library or catalog of locally developed, culturally relevant reading curricula for educators;
(2) working with local institutions to offer virtual continuing education and professional development training in culturally responsive, evidence-based reading instruction to school districts;

(3) coaching and mentoring teachers, paraprofessionals, and staff in evidence-based reading instruction with an emphasis on prioritizing time in a manner that has the greatest positive effect on student achievement;

(4) supporting school district development of capacity for supporting community reading outreach;

(5) training teachers and paraprofessionals in data analysis and using data to differentiate and individualize instruction;

(6) leading and supporting reading leadership teams consisting of school staff who volunteer to participate; and

(7) reporting on school and student performance to the department."

[4:45:38 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CRONK objected.

[4:46:07 PM](#)

MS. TOBIN offered her understanding that Amendment 11 adds line 3, [paragraph] (1), line 5, [paragraph] (2), and line 11, [paragraph] (4) as new components to the five subsections currently listed under AS 14.30.800, subsection (c). As indicated on Amendment 11, she noted that this language begins on page 28, beginning on line 2, of Version G. She offered her understanding that "the new additions in the amendment" are [paragraphs] (1), (2), and (4).

[4:47:03 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY asked whether the other [paragraphs] are duplicative.

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS offered his understanding that they are not duplicative, just renumbered, with the aforementioned three new [paragraphs] added.

[4:48:00 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND offered her understanding that the bill drafter added "consisting of school staff who volunteer to participate" - on lines 15 and 16, [as numbered on the hard copy of Amendment 11] - "to make it match what it used to say" in "the section we're replacing."

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS, in response to Co-Chair Story, recapped the changes that would be made by adopting Amendment 11.

[4:49:55 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CRONK maintained his objection.

[4:49:58 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Hopkins, Drummond, Zulkosky, and Story voted in favor of to the motion to adopt Amendment 11. Representatives Prax and Cronk voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 11 was adopted by a vote of 4-2.

[4:51:00 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND said she would not be offering Amendment 12.

CO-CHAIR STORY confirmed that Amendment 12 would not be offered.

[4:51:36 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 4:51 p.m. to 4:52 p.m.

[4:52:38 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ZULKOSKY asked for more time to work on Amendment 13, which she had brought forward last year [to a different version of the proposed legislation] and wanted to "make sure it's in a good spot for the committee's consideration."

CO-CHAIR STORY said Amendment 13 would be "tabled 'til Wednesday."

[4:53:15 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND moved to adopt Amendment 14 to HB 164, Version G, labeled 32-LS0731\G.18, Klein, 1/21/22, which read as follows:

Page 27, following line 3:

Insert a new paragraph to read:

"(2) "dyslexia" means a specific learning disability that is neurobiological in origin, characterized by difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding

abilities; those difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction; secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge;"

Renumber the following paragraphs accordingly.

[4:53:17 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CRONK objected.

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND stated that it is critically important to define dyslexia, because "up to now it has not been considered a ... learning disability that has attracted sufficient attention." She emphasized that it takes time to identify that a child has dyslexia, which influences his/her ability to read. She noted that dyslexia requires different approaches compared to other disabilities.

[4:54:18 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE HOPKINS asked Representative Cronk if there might be a better definition or if his concern may be specifically about including a definition of dyslexia in the proposed legislation.

[4:54:33 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CRONK opined that the original version of HB 164 "would cover all this," and he cautioned that the more the committee adds to the proposed legislation, the more unworkable it will become. He added that it is the job of a reading specialist to figure out whether a child is dyslexic.

[4:55:13 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY agreed that the bill is "getting big." She said she believes "a definition can be helpful," but she acknowledged the concern expressed by Representative Cronk.

[4:55:29 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND pointed out that the original bill was 40 pages long; the amendments introduced last May reduced it to 30; what is being done now is cleanup. She stated that she does not think the bill is getting too large.

[4:56:17 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY moved Amendment 1 to Amendment 14, to add [paragraph] 3 to Amendment 14, to read:

(3) districts shall report the program they're using, or specific strategies teachers are using, to respond to students with dyslexia

CO-CHAIR STORY explained she thinks this information is important for the department to know.

CO-CHAIR DRUMMOND objected to Amendment 1 to Amendment 14 because the language proposed is a reporting requirement being added to a definition section.

[4:58:00 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY withdrew the motion to adopt Amendment 1 to Amendment 14.

[4:58:15 PM](#)

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Zulkosky, Drummond, Hopkins, and Story voted in favor of the motion to adopt Amendment 14. Representatives Cronk and Prax voted against it. Therefore, Amendment 14 was adopted by a vote of 4-2.

[4:59:16 PM](#)

CO-CHAIR STORY determined the committee would wait to consider further amendments.

[HB 164 was held over.]

[5:00:22 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Education Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.