

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 134

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUN-  
3 CIL TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE A STUDY OF DIVER-  
4 SITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE IN IDAHO'S PUBLIC POST-  
5 SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, the State of Idaho is committed to fostering a fair and nondis-  
8 criminatory environment in public postsecondary institutions where all cit-  
9 izens, including students and faculty, are treated equally; and

10 WHEREAS, the advancement of knowledge is the fundamental purpose of the  
11 public postsecondary education system, and such advancement requires the  
12 free exchange of views as well as the open discussion and debate of contested  
13 public policy issues from varying perspectives; and

14 WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the  
15 State of Idaho, and federal and state laws afford broad protections against  
16 the disparate treatment of individuals, including students and faculty, in  
17 public postsecondary institutions; and

18 WHEREAS, in recent years, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) pro-  
19 grams, initiatives, and related staff members have become more common na-  
20 tionwide; and

21 WHEREAS, DEI programs and initiatives generally seek non-neutral,  
22 preferential outcomes based on providing a benefit to individuals on the ba-  
23 sis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, disability, or religion; and

24 WHEREAS, together with DEI, social justice ideology has become more  
25 commonplace with respect to public postsecondary education across the na-  
26 tion; and

27 WHEREAS, proponents of social justice ideology advocate for a fair bal-  
28 ance in the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a  
29 society; and

30 WHEREAS, the use of DEI and social justice ideologies may influence hir-  
31 ing or employment practices, the promotion of differential treatment with  
32 respect to policies and procedures, the favoring of certain points of view  
33 within education and discourse, and training or instruction meant to promote  
34 DEI and social justice ideologies; and

35 WHEREAS, in recent years, public postsecondary educational institu-  
36 tions across the country have increased the number of non-instructional or  
37 administrative staff, particularly in DEI-related positions; and

38 WHEREAS, in addition to the hiring of DEI-related faculty, there are  
39 other costs associated with DEI requirements, including faculty time spent  
40 preparing and teaching such courses and time and tuition dollars that stu-  
41 dents spend on such material; and

42 WHEREAS, spending on DEI and social justice initiatives has, nation-  
43 wide, taken away valuable resources that could have been committed to

1 supporting more students' academic pursuits and improving education out-  
2 comes; and

3 WHEREAS, tuition for most public postsecondary educational institu-  
4 tions is already expensive and is cost-prohibitive for some students; and

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature is committed to the sound and prudent use of  
6 taxpayer dollars to provide for beneficial and cost-effective public post-  
7 secondary education; and

8 WHEREAS, the public has a right to know about activities that are funded  
9 by taxpayers; and

10 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature that Idaho's public post-  
11 secondary educational institutions teach the knowledge and skills that stu-  
12 dents need to be thoughtful and productive citizens without additional and  
13 unnecessary expense and bureaucracy; and

14 WHEREAS, it is also the intent of the Legislature that no state-appro-  
15 priated funds are used to support diversity, equity, and inclusion, or so-  
16 cial justice ideology as part of any student activities, clubs, events, or  
17 organizations on the campuses of Idaho's public postsecondary institutions.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-  
19 sion of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Rep-  
20 resentatives concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is authorized  
21 to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of the prevalence  
22 and impacts of diversity, equity, and inclusion and social justice ideol-  
23 ogy in Idaho's public postsecondary institutions, including any associated  
24 policies, procedures, staffing, and related costs. The Legislative Council  
25 shall determine the number of legislators and membership from each house ap-  
26 pointed to the committee and shall authorize the committee to receive input,  
27 advice, and assistance from interested and affected parties who are not mem-  
28 bers of the Legislature.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nonlegislative members of the committee may  
30 be appointed by the cochairs of the committee who are appointed by the Leg-  
31 islative Council. Nonlegislative members of the advisory committee shall  
32 not be reimbursed from legislative funds for per diem, mileage, or other ex-  
33 penses and shall not have voting privileges regarding the committee's recom-  
34 mendations or proposed legislation.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings,  
36 recommendations and proposed legislation, if any, to the First Regular Ses-  
37 sion of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature.