

MINUTES
HOUSE RESOURCES & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Gibbs, Vice Chairman Lickley, Representatives Moyle, Wood (Critchfield), Boyle, Vander Woude, Gestrin, Mendive, Kauffman, Blanksma, Addis, Moon, Manwaring, Okuniewicz, Yamamoto, Rubel, Mathias, Burns

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Addis

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

Chairman Gibbs called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 9, and 11, 2022 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 519: **Susan Buxton**, Director, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, stated **H 519** will streamline and reduce rules managed by the Department by migrating all boating rules currently in **IDAPA 26.01.30** into existing **Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 70; Idaho Safe Boating Act**. Making this change simplifies enforcement for county marine deputies as they currently issue warnings and citations under both IDAPA and Chapter 70. With this change, marine deputies will be able to better explain and reference boating laws when interacting with the public, prosecutors, judges, and attorneys. She explained, the rules are being migrated verbatim into statute with one exception; the U.S. Coast Guard recently changed labels on newly manufactured life jackets. As a result, the IDAPA rule that refers to the old labeling style was removed and replaced with the new verbiage that all life jackets must be approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 519** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Gestrin** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 520: **Aaron Lieberman**, Executive Director, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association, stated **H 520** is consensus legislation clarifying the data years used in the calculation the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board uses to designate deer and elk hunting tags allocated for use by the outfitted public. He commented, this change is necessary to ensure the Board will use the same years of use to designate tags as the Fish and Game Commission uses to allocate tags. It also ensures the Board can designate tags to individual outfitters in a timely manner, which is beneficial to the outfitter's business.

Jim Fredericks, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, representing the Fish and Game Commission, spoke **in support** of **H 520**. He stated **H 520** would restore the prior agency interpretation of the statute, which allows allocation and designation to occur in the fall or early winter preceding a hunting season, as opposed to late winter or spring. This ability to allocate and designate tags several weeks or even months earlier will be beneficial to outfitters' businesses. Additionally, he explained, **H 520** would allow the Board to base tag designation to individual outfitters on tag use data from the same two-year period the Commission uses to allocate tags for outfitter use by zone, unit, or hunt.

Jeff Bitton, President, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association, representing 110 small businesses across Idaho who depend on the allocation system, spoke **in support** of **H 520**. He stated it is important for the two state agencies that deal with these tags to match each other's data.

MOTION:

Rep. Gestrin made a motion to send **H 520** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Gestrin** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Gibbs lead a discussion with the committee regarding the Governor's recommendations for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for agencies germane to the House Resources and Conservation committee. The committee was in agreement to support the \$250M recommended to the Idaho Department of Water Resources for recharge and water storage projects and the \$45M recommended to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation for outdoor recreation capacity and maintenance projects.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.

Representative Gibbs
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary