

MINUTES
SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Senators Martin, Lakey, Guthrie, Agenbroad, Riggs, Ward-Engelking, and Burgoyne

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Chairman Patrick and Vice Chairman Souza

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Acting Chairman Guthrie** called the meeting of the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee (Committee) to order at 1:35 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **Idaho Workforce Development Council (IWDC). Wendi Secrist**, Executive Director, IWDC, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the IWDC (Attachment 1). She outlined the mission and vision of the IWDC. She noted that since 2016 the Idaho Workforce Development Training Fund (IWDTF) had trained 12,038 Idahoans and served 9,633 employers. **Ms. Secrist** reported on the Idaho Launch Program (Attachment 1). The focus was on high school students. She noted there were another 38 openings for apprentices with many success stories. **Ms. Secrist** indicated these programs were designed to support one-time needs of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Burgoyne** queried about the status of funding for childcare workers. **Ms. Secrist** responded one of the reasons was for funding to come through the IWDC. Employers would be engaged to potentially apply for funding which would provide a more stable business model to help raise wages.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Margaret Henbest to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board (IHIEB). Acting Chairman Guthrie** asked if there were any objections to confirming Ms. Henbest to the IHIEB. There were none.

MOTION: **Senator Burgoyne** moved to send the gubernatorial reappointment of Margaret Henbest to the IHIEB to the floor with the recommendation she be confirmed. **Senator Agenbroad** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1282 **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING - Repeals and amends existing law to remove licensing provisions regarding abstractors of title. Tim Frost**, Deputy Administrator, Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (IDOPL), reported this bill sought to eliminate inactive provisions of law. This legislation repealed an outdated section of Idaho Code, Chapter 1, Title 54, Abstractors of Title. The statute chapter had not been updated since 1963 and no longer used.

Mr. Frost stated this legislation had no impact on the State's General Fund, any dedicated or federal fund, because the abstractors of title provisions in law were defunct.

DISCUSSION: In answer to a question by **Senator Agenbroad** about industry involvement with this bill, **Mr. Frost** stated all stakeholders had no opposition. However, a correlated reference was added into the bill.

MOTION: **Senator Martin** moved to send **S 1282** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lakey** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1294 **Relating to Employee Contracts.** **Senator Ward-Engelking** noted this legislation should be held for further revisions. She stated this legislation added to Idaho Code § 44-906 legislation that prohibited an employer that chose to offer earned sick leave to its employees to count earned or accrued sick leave, taken in accordance with the employer's written policy as an absence that resulted in discipline or any other adverse action. **Senator Ward-Engelking** said this bill did not mandate and only applied to those employers who offered sick leave to employees. Some workers were being terminated or disciplined who utilized sick leave, even when using sick leave in accordance with employer policies.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to hold **S 1294** in Committee at the call of the Chair. **Senator Agenbroad** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1299 **Relating to Architect Mutual Recognition.** **Senator Riggs** reported this legislation allowed for the Idaho Board of Architect Examiners (IBOAE), under the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (IDOPL), to enter into a mutual recognition agreement with another state, territory, jurisdiction, or country. He reported the legislation allowed the State of Idaho to enter into a mutual licensure recognition agreement with Canada and have mutual recognition of both Idaho architect licensees working in Canada, and Canada architect licensees working in Idaho.

Senator Riggs stated the legislation had no impact on the State's General Fund or federal funds. Entering into a mutual recognition agreement with another state or country was expected to be revenue neutral for the IDOPL dedicated fund based on the experience of similar agreements of other Idaho professional licensing boards, while saving individual licensees both time and fees.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lakey** and **Senator Riggs** discussed the agreement between the IBOAE and another state, territory, or country. **Senator Lakey** remarked this agreement sounded positive.

TESTIMONY: **Benn Brocksome**, American Institute of Architects (AIA-Idaho), testified in support of the bill. He noted the reciprocity agreement was supported by AIA-Idaho.

MOTION: **Senator Burgoyne** moved to send **S 1299** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Acting Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

Senator Guthrie
Acting Chairman

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary