

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 02, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Vick, Vice Chairman Heider, and Senators Blair (Johnson), Patrick, Guthrie, Burtenshaw, Stennett, and Semmelroth

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator VanOrden (Bair)

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: **Chairman Vick** called the meeting of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m.

RS 29572 **Stating Findings of the Legislature and Rejecting a Certain Rule of the Department of Parks and Recreation.** **Chairman Vick** stated this legislation rejected a certain rule relating to governing the administration of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation state and federal grant funds. He asked for unanimous consent to refer **RS 29572** to a privileged committee for printing.

RS 29644 **Stating Findings of the Legislature and Approving Pending Rules that Impose a Fee or Charge.** **Chairman Vick** stated this legislation approved pending rules that impose a fee or charge for the Department of Fish and Game, Forest Products Commission, Department of Lands, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Water Resources, with the exception of a certain rule related to a Department of Parks and Recreation incorrect definition, which was rejected. He asked for unanimous consent to refer **RS 29644** to a privileged committee for printing.

MOTION: **Senator Patrick** requested unanimous consent to send **RS 29572** and **RS 29644** to the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing. There were no objections.

H 520 **Fish and Game - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the designation of allocated tags.** **Representative Gestrin** explained **H 520** amends the Outfitters and Guides Act, Idaho Code § 36-2120 to revise the calculation used by the Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board (Board) to designate deer and elk hunting tags allocated for use by outfitted hunters by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. These changes specify that the two years of prior use that form the basis for the calculation were the two calendar years preceding the date of allocation.

DISCUSSION: In response to a question from **Senator Heider**, **Representative Gestrin** clarified that this legislation does not revise the formula for the calculation of the number of assigned tags, but the period of time used for that calculation.

TESTIMONY: **Jim Fredericks**, Deputy Director, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) testified in favor of **H 520**. **Mr. Fredericks** explained the process of tag allocation and designation to outfitters. He explained a portion of non-resident tags are set aside for outfitters to take clients, who could be residents or non-residents, on hunts. IDFG allocates to individual hunting units for deer, or zones for elk, based on prior use. The Board then allocates tags to individual outfitters within each unit or zone. This legislation aligned the two years of prior use used by Fish and Game with the two years used by the Board. In the past, IDFG used the last two years that were available and the Board used the two prior calendar years. This legislation allowed a more timely allocation of tags to outfitters.

Aaron Lieberman, Executive Director, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association testified in favor of **H 520**. **Mr. Lieberman** reiterated this legislation allowed IDFG to allocate earlier, if they chose to do so, from late winter to spring to fall or early winter.

DISCUSSION: In response to a question from **Senator Heider**, **Mr. Lieberman** clarified that in this case, tags were not allocated directly to individuals.

In response to questions from **Senator Semmelroth** and **Senator Stennett** regarding the reference to non-residents in this legislation, **Mr. Lieberman** explained that the Board allocates outfitter tags from a non-resident pool, which is approximately ten percent of the total available. All outfitter tags come from the non-resident pool, although users could be residents or non-residents.

In response to a question from **Senator Guthrie**, **Mr. Lieberman** explained that outfitters sell the hunting trip and not the individual tag. They generally absorb the cost of the tag in their charges for the hunting trip, and they do not resell tags with a mark up.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Heider** moved to send **H 520** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Vice Chairman Heider will carry on the floor.

PRESENTATION: **Honoring of Page - Lyndsey Lewis**. **Ms. Lewis** shared with the Committee about her aspirations for the future and some thoughts on her experience as a Senate Page. She plans to attend University of Idaho and earn a bachelor's degree in sociology and then a law degree. She eventually wants to be a criminal and family lawyer and then a judge. **Chairman Vick** thanked her for her service.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business as this time, **Chairman Vick** adjourned the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Senator Vick
Chair

Shelly Johnson
Secretary