

MINUTES
SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 16, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Cook, Senators Guthrie, Ricks, Foreman, Hartgen, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, and Ruchti

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Lakey

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 Cook** called the meeting of the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee to order at 1:30 p.m.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Jon Weber, of Rexburg, Idaho, State Insurance Fund Board (SIFB), to serve a term commencing February 10, 2023 and expiring November 30, 2024.** **Representative Weber** gave a brief overview of his background. He noted he owned and operated a small business in Rexburg for over 30 years. He served as a Madison County Commissioner for 12 years. He explained that because of his business and Commissioner experience, he was familiar dealing with workers' compensation issues.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ricks** asked Representative Weber to outline some of his goals for the SIFB. **Representative Weber** acknowledged it was important the SIFB maintain stable and reliable workers' compensation for businesses. **Senator Ricks** suggested that Representative Weber and the SIFB examine the high rates for unemployment and workers' compensation for the employers. **Representative Weber** remarked the insurance industry was highly regulated. There were limited areas where the numbers could be adjusted.

Senator Guthrie questioned if there was anything Representative Weber learned in county government that he could apply to his position on the SIFB. **Representative Weber** replied it was important that agencies collaborated in order to examine the entire picture, to keep rates reasonable, and maintain a more reliable source of workers' compensation.

Chairman Cook queried what the top two challenges were as a member of the SIFB. **Representative Weber** explained that the challenges were learning about the insurance business and the process of setting budgets. He emphasized it was important to understand numbers and maintain that Idaho was competitive and stable for the long-term.

Chairman Cook announced the gubernatorial vote would take place at the next meeting.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE: **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Aaron White, Commissioner, Idaho Industrial Commission (SIFB).**

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send the gubernatorial reappointment of Aaron White, SIFB, to the floor with the recommendation he be confirmed. **Senator Ricks** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Lenney** asked to be recorded as voting nay.

RS 30899 **Relating to Trade Practices and Frauds.** **Senator Herndon** reported this legislation amended Idaho Code in relation to definitions and disclosures related to the use of aftermarket crash parts for motor vehicle repairs. He stated this legislation had no fiscal impact on State or local governments since it did not create any new requirements of State and local governments. He noted this proposed legislation added technical corrections, including the use of non-original equipment manufacturers (non-OEM) crash parts. These parts might affect the safety and performance of a vehicle. He noted repair shops would be required to disclose what parts they were using.

MOTION: **Senator Lenney** moved to send **RS 30899** to print. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 30918 **Relating to Insurance.** **Senator Wintrow** indicated this legislation allowed enrollees to receive up to a six-month supply of prescribed contraceptives if they so chose or if they were already on an established prescription. Currently, many insurance plans reimbursed for only a one to three-month supply of contraceptives. This legislation would require any health benefit plan issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2025, which covered contraceptives approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration, to provide reimbursement for up to a six-month refill supply obtained at one time by the enrollee. The exception was if the enrollee had never been prescribed prescription contraception, then the provider would provide a smaller supply. **Senator Wintrow** stated this legislation required insurers to expand contraceptive coverage. This legislation did not mandate any appropriations and did not mandate any future appropriations. This legislation would not negatively affect the General Fund or any dedicated fund.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Cook** clarified that a person could purchase contraceptives. **Senator Wintrow** noted most people who had insurance would be allowed to purchase a six-month supply.

Senator Foreman asked for clarification in that this legislation did not mandate an increase in coverage. **Senator Wintrow** explained the Idaho insurance companies, except for veterans, only allowed a three-month supply. **Senator Foreman** stated this was telling an insurance company how to run their company. He queried if this was not government overreach. He noted this was a small action and important since the insurers were not opposed. **Senator Wintrow** explained this was a cost-saving bill.

Senator Ricks asked if it was possible that an insurance company could voluntarily offer this without a change in the law. **Senator Wintrow** stated this legislation provided gains for those involved in family planning and for other medical issues. In response to a question from Senator Ricks, **Senator Wintrow** stated she did not know why the insurance companies were not already allowing a six-month supply.

Senator Ward-Engelking remarked a number of people who lived in rural areas had inquired about this legislation. **Senator Wintrow** indicated she had inquiries from all over the State. She noted it was important for people to have access to family planning resources and avoid unwanted consequences.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **RS 30918** to print. **Senator Hartgen** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Ricks** asked to be recorded as voting nay.

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

Senator Cook
Chair

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary