

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, January 26, 2024

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Bernt, Senators Winder, Anthon, Harris, Lee, Toews, Wintrow, and Ruchti

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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 Guthrie** called the meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:04 a.m.

WELCOME: **Chairman Guthrie** welcomed all to the Committee meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Anthon** moved to approve the Minutes of January 15, 2024. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Harris** moved to approve the Minutes of January 17, 2024. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL
APPOINTMENT:** **The Gubernatorial Appointment of Amy Bloem to the Idaho Lottery Commission** to serve a term commencing August 28, 2023, and expiring January 1, 2028. **Ms. Bloem** stated that she was from Kalispell, Montana. She studied business at the University of Colorado Boulder. She remarked she worked in the commercial lighting industry, then moved back to Idaho to learn and grow the StanCraft Companies. She managed StanCraft Companies and grew the business to 118 employees. Ms. Bloem stated that Stancraft Companies was involved in boat building and service. She remarked that Stancraft also established a jet center and built commercial and residential projects.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Toews** remarked that he visited the StanCraft facility and thanked Ms. Bloem for volunteering for the Lottery Commission. **Chairman Guthrie** stated that he intended to allow for discussion after the Committee meeting and a vote would be conducted at the next meeting.

SJR 104 **LEGISLATURE - Proposes an amendment to the state constitution to limit the length of any extraordinary or special session of the Legislature.** **Senator Harris** stated **SJR 104** held the extraordinary sessions of the Legislature to the same 20-day limit that applied to all special sessions. He remarked that this language amended Idaho Code. **SJR 104** restored the 20-day limit and disclosed the limit to the citizens. He remarked this enabled Idaho to remain a citizen legislature.

TESTIMONY: **Chairman Guthrie** advised of one citizen to present testimony. **Trent Clark** stated that **SJR 104** was not a technical correction to the constitution; it was a conforming amendment. He remarked that it ensured the intent of the constitution was accomplished. He encouraged the Committee to advance **SJR 104** out of respect for the high standards of deliberation set in law and tradition for amending the constitution.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** commented that it was expensive to amend the constitution and asked how this was missed. **Mr. Clark** recommended involving constitutional historians in the future. **Chairman Guthrie** inquired if there were any citizens present or online who wanted to testify. There were none.

MOTION: **Senator Anthon** moved to send **SJR 104** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 30955C1 **Relating to Liquor. Brody Aston**, Public Affairs Associate, remarked **RS 30955C1** amended Idaho Code § 23-948. It allowed for economic development by enabling stream flow adjustment along a section of the Boise River impacted by seasonal irrigation. **Mr. Aston** stated this encouraged commercial projects in a corridor in Garden City and Boise. The development licenses were nontransferable and would not impact the quota system.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Anthon** remarked that the statute for liquor licenses was complex and needed additional examination. He thanked Chairman Guthrie for past changes to the statute.

MOTION: **Senator Anthon** moved to send **RS 30955C1** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 31038 **Relating to the National Guard. Senator Adams** stated **RS 31038** prohibited mobilization of the Idaho National Guard for combat actions overseas unless there was a corresponding congressional declaration of war. He remarked it did not impact the Governor's ability to mobilize the Idaho National Guard under the Idaho Constitution, nor did it prohibit training missions.

MOTION: **Senator Lee** moved to send **RS 31038** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Guthrie passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Bernt.

RS 31047 **Relating to Election Campaign Contributions and Expenditures. Senator Guthrie** stated **RS 31047** removed language from Idaho Code § 67-6602 that exempted entities registered with the federal election commission from being considered Political Action Committees. He remarked that this ensured state and federal definitions matched.

MOTION: **Senator Lee** moved to send **RS 31047** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 15-1001-2301 **Rules of the Idaho State Liquor Division (ZBR Chapter Rewrite, Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule. Jeffrey Anderson**, Director, Idaho State Liquor Division, stated that the rules were improved for clarity and ease of use. There were no changes to fee rules. The Committee approved **Docket No. 15-1001-2301** in 2023 but the review was not completed before the end of session.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Anthon** asked if Docket No. 15-1001-2301 did not pass in 2023 due to substantive disagreements. **Mr. Anderson** responded that there were no substantive disagreements. It did not pass due to end of session. **Vice Chairman Bernt** inquired if there were any citizens present or online who wanted to testify. There were none.

MOTION: **Senator Anthon** moved to approve **Docket No. 15-1001-2301**. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 52-0103-2301 **Rules Governing Operations of Idaho State Lottery - Proposed Rule.** **Jeffrey Anderson**, Director, Idaho State Lottery Division, stated that this rule modernized the methods of paying winning lottery tickets of \$599 and under. Lottery retailers were unable to pay prizes under \$600 in cash due to safety concerns. **Docket No. 52-0103-2301** allowed no-fee prepaid prize payment cards and electronic funds transfer to pay lottery prizes up to \$599.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Bernt** inquired if there were any citizens present or online who wanted to testify. There were none.

MOTION: **Senator Toews** moved to approve **Docket No. 52-0103-2301**. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 32-0101-2301 **Rules Governing the Credit Enhancement Program for School Districts (ZBR Chapter Rewrite, Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule.** **Chris Anton**, Endowment Fund Investment Board (Board), stated that the Credit Enhancement Program allowed eligible voter-approved school bonds to be issued AAA ratings. The credit enhancement was achieved by a pledge that the Public School Endowment Fund, which was administered by the Board, would purchase up to \$300 million in notes if needed to avoid a default on school bonds. The program reduced borrowing costs for school districts. **Docket No. 32-0101-2301** enabled the Board to charge districts an application fee of \$500 and a one-time bond guarantee fee of 0.02 percent of the total debt service.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** asked if any issues or concerns were raised when the language of **Docket No. 32-0101-2301** was modified. **Mr. Anton** stated no concerns were presented. **Senator Winder** disclosed that he participated on the Endowment Fund Investment Board, but he benefited in no way from this rule change.

MOTION: **Senator Winder** moved to approve **Docket No. 32-0101-2301**. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Bernt passed the gavel back to the Chairman.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 8:41 a.m.

Senator Guthrie
Chair

Peggy Caraway
Secretary