

MINUTES
SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Ricks

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 (Committee) to order at 2:00 p.m.

RS 31668 **Unanimous Consent Request for Referral to a Privileged Committee for Printing - A Senate Concurrent Resolution Stating Findings of the Legislature and Approving Pending Rules of the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses and the Department of Insurance reviewed by the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee, with an Exception.** **Chairman Cook** asked for unanimous consent to send **RS 31668** to a Privileged Committee for printing. There were no objections.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Ruchti** moved to approve the Minutes of March 14, 2024. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 545 **Chairman Cook** stated the testimony for this bill was continued from the prior meeting.

TESTIMONY: The following testified in support of the bill: **Lynn Bradescue** and **Michael Hon**, both representing themselves. The overall theme was it was disingenuous to find other ways not to allow someone to move into a unit, and it was wrong for a city to tell an owner what to do.

The following testified in opposition to the bill: **Tony Torres**, Jesse Tree; **Karen Hansen**, representing herself, **April Hoy**, Boise Renters United; **Colin Nash**, Boise City Council; **Deanna Watson**, Executive Director, Boise/Ada County Housing Coalition; and **Denise Carruzzi**, Boise/Ada County Housing Coalition. The overall theme was that this bill took the power away from local jurisdictions, it was wrong for State government to address housing, it was hard to find a place to stay, poverty was concentrated in the same area making neighborhoods unsafe, cities should be able to set their own ordinances, send the bill to the 14th Order for possible amendment, landlords had the right to screen applicants and set rent rates, and this bill was discriminatory.

Written testimony in support of the bill was received from: Janis and Jeff Helfman; Darcy Horton; Greg Ferch; Rebecca Loomis; and Daniel Schoenberg. Written testimony in opposition to the bill was received from Tony Torres, Karen Hansen, and Amy Dundon.

DISCUSSION: A discussion ensued among the Committee members about the large volume of paperwork required of landlords and applicants for Section 8 vouchers, the idea of builders from out-of-state not accepting Section 8 vouchers, housing authority limits on rents, how utilities were divided, property inspections, government intervention in the private sector, the removal of protection that precluded discrimination, and if this bill passed there would be fewer places available to rent.

MOTION: **Senator Lenney** moved to send **H 545** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Foreman** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Foreman** commented it was not the role of government to intrude into the private sector. **Senator Lakey** stated he saw this bill as prohibiting a private business to decide what they could do for their business. He referred to page 5 of the Boise City/Ada County Housing Authority Property Manager Submittal Packet (Attachment 1), that it was rent control if a landlord participated in Section 8 vouchers. This dictated to the landlord how much rent could be charged.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Senator Ruchti** moved to send **H 545** to the 14th Order for possible amendment. **Senator Hartgen** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ruchti** stated he worried about local control and he wanted to keep the language that allowed local government and cities to use other programs for fees and deposits. He noted this statute went too far. **Senator Ward-Engelking** commented that she did not want this bill to wipe out all of the work that was done relating to application fees and deposits. **Senator Hartgen** stated she was in support of the substitute motion. She noted local government knew what was best for their cities.

Senator Lenney asked for a roll call vote on the substitute motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Senators Guthrie, Hartgen, Ward-Engelking, and Ruchti** voted aye. **Senators Lakey, Foreman, Lenney, and Chairman Cook** voted nay. The motion failed.

Senator Ruchti asked for a roll call vote on the original motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: **Senators Lakey, Guthrie, Foreman, Lenney, and Chairman Cook** voted aye. **Senators Hartgen, Ward-Engelking, and Ruchti** voted nay. The motion carried.

H 632

VOLUNTARY NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR LICENSURE - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding voluntary naturopathic doctor licensure requirements. **Senator Anthon** explained this legislation made minor corrections to the voluntary naturopathic doctor dual licensure statute. It clarified the post-doctorate training required to obtain voluntary licensure and prevented policy overlap with other naturopathic licensure statutes. The legislation required that an individual be enrolled in and complete a naturopathic doctor curriculum of at least 160 hours from an accredited university, as well as show proof that an applicant had practiced naturopathic medicine in Idaho for a number of years. **Senator Anthon** noted this legislation did not change the underlying doctorate licensure requirement or the requirement that the underlying license must remain active and in good standing. **Senator Anthon** stated the only anticipated fiscal impact was positive. These changes allowed the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL) to begin licensing those individuals seeking licensure, with an increase in revenue.

TESTIMONY: **Chairman Cook** reported that all testifiers who signed up were in support of the bill. Written testimony in support of the bill was received from Dr. Brian Barry, President of Naturopathic Physicians Association of Idaho.

MOTION: **Senator Foreman** moved to send **H 632** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Chairman Cook stated that due to the lack of time, **S 1429** would be continued to the next meeting.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Cook** adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Senator Cook
Chair

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary