

MINUTES

SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 21, 2024

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Cook, Senators Lakey, Guthrie, Ricks, Foreman, Hartgen, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, 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 Cook** called the meeting of the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee (Committee) to order at 1:31 p.m.

S 1429 **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING - Adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding petitions for waivers of or variances from occupational licensing requirements. Senator Den Hartog** explained this legislation created a process for licensed professionals to request a variance from their licensing authority for a waiver of a licensing requirement under certain circumstances. It established a process where the licensing authority could either approve or deny the petition request. She noted this legislation had no impact on the General Fund, as licensing authorities were supported by the fees from the licensed professionals whom they regulated. This legislation had no impact of increasing licensing fees because the waiver requests were to be handled at regularly scheduled meetings.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Hartgen** queried what was a usual request for a variance. **Senator Den Hartog** gave an example of a cosmetologist who wanted to do mobile hair cutting. The licensing rule was that hair cutting had to be done in a licensed facility. The Cosmetology Board could choose to grant a variance.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **S 1429** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Hartgen** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 697 **STATE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES - Amends existing law to provide for certain credited state service and utilization of unused sick leave for certain eligible nonclassified officers and employees hired by the Office of the State Public Defender before January 1, 2025. Senator Lakey** explained that with the creation of the State Public Defender's Office, county employees moved over as employees of the State of Idaho. Employees who moved to the State Public Defender's Office received comparable accrual rates based upon their county Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) hours. He noted employees were allowed to transfer up to 40 hours of unused sick leave. Funds from the counties were deposited into the Public Defense Fund to pay for unused sick leave hours transferred by each employee. **Senator Lakey** reported this legislation caused no additional expenditure of funds at the State or local level of government. Therefore, the legislation had no fiscal impact.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Hartgen** stated she always thought that PERSI hours traveled with the person. **Senator Lakey** commented he thought the same thing. This legislation made sure the hours moved with the employee.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **H 697** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 705 **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REFORM - ADDS TO EXISTING LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFICIENT RENEWAL OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES.** **Senator Lakey** explained this bill continued Idaho's work towards occupational licensing reform. The vast majority of licenses required licensees to take certain continuing education credits in order to renew their license. **Senator Lakey** noted this legislation reformed, overhauled, and streamlined continuing education requirements, and directed licensing authorities to review their administrative rules to eliminate or modify any continuing education provisions that conflicted with the changes in this bill. He stated there was no fiscal impact. Any reduction of continuing education requirements did not impact the revenue for the licensing board, as no licensing board offered continuing education classes.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **H 705** 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, **Chairman Cook** adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Senator Cook
Chair

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary