

MINUTES  
**SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 28, 2020

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Patrick, Vice Chairman Agenbroad, Senators Martin, Lakey, Guthrie, Thayn, Souza, Ward-Engelking, and Burgoyne

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

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Chairman Patrick** announced the minutes approval would be moved to a later time on the agenda.

**RS 27225** **Relating to Plumbers - Competency Requirements.** **John Nielsen**, Plumbing, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Program Manager, Idaho Division of Building Safety (IDBS), indicated this bill would eliminate barriers to licensure and the need for a license. **Mr. Nielsen** stated this proposed legislation provides an exception from plumbing licensing requirements for installers of manufactured or mobile homes to make connections and allows installers to obtain permits to make connections. He noted because installers must make connections in accordance with the same standards as plumbing licensees, there is no need to require installers to obtain a plumbing or specialty license to make connections. **Mr. Nielsen** advised there is no fiscal impact to the General Fund. There will be a negative impact of approximately \$1,100 over the course of a fiscal year on the HVAC Board's dedicated fund, due to the elimination of revenue generated by fees for the specialty license.

**MOTION:** **Senator Lakey** moved to send **RS 27225** to print. **Vice Chairman Agenbroad** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 27226** **Relating to Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) - Revise Registration for Apprentices.** **John Nielsen**, HVAC Program Manager, Idaho Division of Building Safety (IDBS), indicated the HVAC Board is proposing a rule to allow an HVAC apprentice to renew registration and continue working as an apprentice by showing completion of eight hours of continuing education for each year of the prior registration period instead of showing enrollment in or successful completion of schooling. **Mr. Nielsen** explained this proposed legislation changes the apprentice registration period from five years to one year and the fee from \$50 to \$10, which will make tracking continuing education easier for the apprentice and the IDBS. There is no negative impact to the General Fund or the HVAC Board's dedicated fund because the registration fee per year will not change.

**MOTION:** **Senator Burgoyne** moved to send **RS 27226** to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

- RS 27290** **Relating to Engineers and Surveyors Regarding License Status.** **Tom Judge**, Deputy Director for Surveying, Idaho Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors (IPELS), stated the proposal improves the process for renewal and reissuance of licenses. **Mr. Judge** pointed out unnecessary language is removed and this amendment better defines and clarifies when land survey monuments are required. He noted there is no fiscal impact to the General Fund or the dedicated fund of the IPELS, as the amendment addresses requirements for licensed engineers and land surveyors by allowing for process improvements. The overall cost of survey work will not be increased.
- Mr. Judge** described the substantive changes which were to provide additional options for monuments set by surveyors; clarification of the authorities and duties of surveyors and engineers; a reduction in requirements for some Public Land Survey System (PLSS) monuments; a requirement was added to find or set the monument marking the center quarter corner when subdividing a section; and the addition of a requirement to set monuments at actual corner locations where the General Land Office surveyors did not set them.
- MOTION:** **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **RS 27290** to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 27198** **Relating to Employment Security Law.** **Jani Revier**, Director, Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL), outlined the proposed amendments to Idaho Code §§ 72-1351(2), 72-1336, and 72-1352A. She noted the changes relieve charges to an employer's unemployment account when an employee leaves employment based on a personal choice and still qualifies for benefits; removes a reference to an official IDOL seal; removes expired dates; and changes the election submission deadline to the first quarter of the following calendar year. **Ms. Revier** noted there is no impact to the General Fund due to these proposed changes.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Burgoyne** and **Josh McKenna**, Legal Counsel, IDOL, discussed the flexibility provided by this proposed legislation for employers.
- MOTION:** **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **RS 27198** to print. **Vice Chairman Agenbroad** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 27328** **Relating to Workers' Compensation.** **Senator Bayer** gave a brief overview of H 554, which was passed in 2016, which dealt with occupational diseases associated with firefighting within the workers' compensation system. **Senator Bayer** noted in the fiscal note of H 554, there was a statement from the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) with the expectation that the enactment of legislation would result in increases in workers' compensation, but the extent of these increases were difficult to estimate due to significant data limitations. A sunset clause was added to the bill. **Senator Bayer** noted the NCCI has recently reported that workers' compensation premiums have dropped 18 percent since the passage of that legislation. She stated this proposed legislation removes the sunset clause in Idaho Code § 72-438, making this statute permanent. There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund as there was none in the original bill.
- MOTION:** **Senator Burgoyne** moved to send **RS 27328** to print. **Senator Lakey** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 27263** **Relating to Taiwan - A Joint Memorial.** **Senator Lent** stated this joint memorial recognizes the beneficial trade relationship between the State of Idaho and Taiwan, and reaffirms Idaho's commitment to a strong, deepening relationship with Taiwan. He noted there is no fiscal impact to the General Fund because no State action is required.

**MOTION:** **Senator Souza** moved to print **RS 27263**. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 27399** **Relating to Self-Storage Facilities.** **Tim Olson**, Self Storage Association, noted this proposed legislation updates and amends Idaho Code §§ 53-2302, 55-2304, 55-2305, and 55-2306 relating to self-service storage facilities. A new section of Idaho Code would be added to Idaho Code § 55-2308 concerning a lessee in default and § 55-2329 access restrictions for consumers and operators. Amendments include definition updates, identification of reasonable rates for late charges, clarification of endorsement of lien language for consumers and operators, and, in the absence of a notice provision in the rental agreement, notices would be sent by certified mail. **Mr. Olson** reported there is no fiscal impact to the General Fund as these updates relate to rental agreements between the operator and the lessee.

**MOTION:** **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **RS 27399** to print. **Vice Chairman Agenbroad** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **Your Health Idaho (YHI).** **Patrick Kelly**, Executive Director, YHI, highlighted the changes and outlined the year for YHI (Attachment 1). He gave an executive summary of the key accomplishments, 2019 by the numbers, the year in review, open enrollment 2020, and looking ahead.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Souza** and **Mr. Kelly** discussed the impact on YHI policy holders when approximately 18,000 subscribers moved onto the Medicaid plan. They discussed the 6 percent increase in the cost of policies, which was set by the Idaho Department of Insurance (IDOI). **Chairman Patrick** commented that a percent of the insurance was not directly related to the 6 percent increase, but was used for operations.

**Vice Chairman Agenbroad** and **Mr. Kelly** discussed the background of the reserves of YHI. **Mr. Kelly** explained YHI tends to have six to ten months in reserves for operating expenses and the remainder is for investment in technology.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Thayne** moved to approve the Minutes of January 21, 2020. **Senator Burgoyne** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **Idaho Central Credit Union (ICCU)- Financial Literacy in Schools.** **John Watts**, ICCU, introduced guest speakers Michael Watson, Chief Marketing Officer, ICCU, and Stuart Draper, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), StuKent. **Mr. Watts** gave a brief overview of the ICCU programs. He noted the ICCU is involved in local communities by supporting the Idaho Foodbank, United Way, and various chambers of commerce, libraries, and schools. **Mr. Watson** indicated teachers ask for help in teaching financial topics, such as credit reports, how to balance a checkbook, and student loans. There is a need for this type of education as people struggle with bounced checks, late loan payments, and low credit scores. He cited a survey conducted by the National Foundation for Credit Counseling (NFCC) and went over the statistics relating to personal finances. Very few students talk with their parents about money. The ICCU has an entire department devoted to helping credit union members create a budget, identify needs versus wants, and setting priorities.

**Mr. Watson** indicated this program was developed by a teacher. Teachers in Utah and other states are using the program in their curriculum. The ICCU offers a finance grant to help implement this program in all high schools (Attachment 2).

**Mr. Draper** reported his company, StuKent, has developed educational technology using digital simulations. Embedded in the program is a game

called "Life Happens." This game simulates life in the real world using digital paychecks, budgets, bills, and unexpected occurrences. Students learn how to handle these types of issues using critical thinking skills (Attachment 3).

**DISCUSSION:** **Senators Lakey** and **Souza** discussed whether this class was taught as part of a math, economics, or social studies class.

**Senator Guthrie** commented he appreciated the ICCU and agreed students should be taught about financial topics. He encouraged Mr. Draper to find out how this could be made part of the curriculum statewide. **Mr. Draper** stated the system is set up to be turnkey with lesson plans and other items exposing students to the curriculum.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Patrick** adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

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Senator Patrick  
Chair

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Linda Kambeitz  
Secretary