

MINUTES
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 28, 2021

TIME: 10:40 A.M.

PLACE: Room C310

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bair, Vice Chairman Agenbroad, Senators Crabtree, Grow, Woodward, Lent, Riggs, Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nye

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 Bair** called the meeting of the Senate Finance Committee (Committee) to order at 10:42 a.m.

S 1033 Relating to a Transfer to the Legislative Account.

PRESENTATION: **Paul Headlee**, Division Manager, Legislative Services Office (LSO), Budget and Policy Analysis Division; presented **S 1033**, which relates to increased funding to the Legislative Account for the Idaho State Senate and House of Representatives. In Idaho Code § 67-451, the State Controller is directed to make four transfers from the General Fund into the account totalling \$6.755 million annually. A statutory change is required to increase the amount that is transferred each year, and this legislation would increase the transfers by \$1.756 million annually, making the new annual total amount \$8.511 million, a 26 percent increase.

Mr. Headlee said this account funds Legislative operations such as payroll, training, meals, lodging provision, supplies, and benefits. It is continuously appropriated, does not revert back to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year, and does not require legislation each year. The last increase was over 10 years ago and the fund has declined significantly, requiring replenishment to meet its obligations. These transfers will be retroactive to January 1, 2021, with \$1.324 million transferring in fiscal year (FY)2021 and \$431,500 transferring in FY 2022.

DISCUSSION: The Committee asked for further clarification on the bill, and in response to those questions, **Mr. Headlee** explained:

- This bill would increase the account balance by \$1.756 million annually;
- The account is continuously appropriated annually and its current total is \$6.755 million;
- Continuous appropriation does not require legislation, however this increase does;
- This fund does not pay any legal fees and will not overlap with the Legal Defense Fund;
- The emergency clause was necessary due to the extremely low balance;
- The report referenced in the bill's fourth item can be found in Chairman Bair's office or online; and

- The agreed-upon split is 63 percent to the House and 37 percent to the Senate. Each house is responsible for management and budgeting of their portion of the fund.

Chairman Bair added that the expenditures increased due to salary increases, travel costs; and the special session that was originally scheduled for two days but actually ran for five.

MOTION:

Senator Grow moved to send **S 1033** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Agenbroad** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Woodward and **Senator Ward-Engleking** were recorded with a nay vote.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Bair** adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Senator Bair
Chair

Denise McNeil
Secretary