

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, March 18, 2022

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Guthrie, Senators Winder, Anthon, Harris, Lee, Heider, Stennett, 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:** **Chairwoman Lodge** called to order the meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) at 8:06 a.m. She stated that the Committee would take up **H 747** before **H 707** and **H 720**.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT:** **Gubernatorial Reappointment of Kevin Settles to the Idaho Commission on Human Rights (Commission).** **Mr. Settles** introduced himself and shared his background. He had been on the Commission for three or four terms and felt that it served a very important role and addressed situations that were not fair. **Mr. Settles** further stated that his experience as an employer brought a unique perspective to the Commission.

**DISCUSSION:** **Chairwoman Lodge** and **Senator Burgoyne** expressed appreciation for Mr. Settles' contributions to the Commission and thanked him for his service.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT:** **Gubernatorial Reappointment of Hyrum Erickson to the Commission.** **Mr. Erickson** introduced himself and shared his background. He stated that he was an attorney in Rexburg and had dealt with a modest number of employment law cases prior to joining the Commission. **Mr. Erickson** further stated that his experience enabled him to understand the view of the employer and employee.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT:** **Gubernatorial Reappointment of Paul Jagosh to the Commission.** **Mr. Jagosh** introduced himself and shared his background. He stated that he was an investigator of violent crimes and a legislative adviser for the Fraternal Order of Police. **Mr. Jagosh** further stated that he felt the work of the Commission was important in addressing unfair employment situations such as not being hired, being passed over for a promotion or being fired as a result of discrimination based on disability, race, or other considerations that violate the law. He shared that he had enjoyed his work on the Commission.

**DISCUSSION:** **Chairwoman Lodge** thanked Mr. Jagosh for his service.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT:** **Gubernatorial Reappointment of Evelyn Johnson to the Commission.** **Ms. Johnson** introduced herself and shared her background. She stated that she was the Vice President for Research and Development for an educational technology company and that she had been a professor of Special Education at Boise State University. She explained that her background was in working with people with disabilities and she felt that was what she contributed to the Commission. Finally, **Ms. Johnson** stated that it had been an honor to serve on the Commission.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Stennett** thanked Ms. Johnson for her work on the International Women's Forum and the Commission.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT:** **Gubernatorial Reappointment of Daniel Cravens to the Commission.** Mr. Cravens was not present due to technical difficulties. Consideration of his reappointment was postponed.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Gubernatorial Appointment of Dr. Matthew Woodington to the Idaho State Racing Commission.** **Senator Anthon** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Dr. Matthew Woodington to the Idaho State Racing Commission to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**H 682** **RELATING TO ELECTIONS.** **Representative Skaug** presented **H 682**. He explained that **H 682** required cities and special districts that were subject to election consolidations to provide timely notice to the county clerk of any changes to their election zones, districts or subdistricts to allow the clerks to prepare for elections.

**MOTION:** **Senator Anthon** moved to send **H 682** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**H 694** **RELATING TO VOTERS.** **Representative Giddings** presented **H 694**. She explained that **H 694** allowed the public to examine the list of Idaho residents who have passed away to help ensure they are removed from the election register. She said the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (Department) provided a list of deceased individuals to the Secretary of State's office at the end of each month. That list included the name, age, county of residence and resident's address. The Department added the date of birth and the last four digits of the social security number. **Representative Giddings** explained that **H 694** allowed public access to the list of decedents provided by the Department, but without the date of birth or last four digits of the social security number.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Stennett** asked what basic information would be provided in this record request. **Representative Giddings** responded that only the name, age, county of residence and resident's address was provided, not the date of birth or last four digits of the social security number. **Senator Stennett** then asked how we would know the person was deceased. **Representative Giddings** replied that the Department verified that the individual was deceased.

**Senator Winder** asked for clarification that there was no fiscal note when **H 694** required additional time for staff to provide this information to the public. **Representative Giddings** explained that the information was provided from the Department on an Excel sheet and it would not require much additional time to remove the columns containing the date of birth and last four digits of the social security number.

**TESTIMONY:** **Joseph Gish**, a former navy pilot, explained that he had examined the election register to determine whether any inaccuracies or fraud had occurred. However, he was not permitted access to the list of decedents provided by the Department to the Secretary of State's office.

**MOTION:** **Senator Heider** moved to send **H 694** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**Chairwoman Lodge** announced the agenda would be reordered.

**H 747** **RELATING TO STATE ELECTIVE OFFICERS.** **Representative Harris** presented **H 747**. He explained that **H 747** was the quadrennial pay increase for our state officials. He further explained that the last pay increase was a 9.5 percent increase for that four year period. **H 747** proposed a 9.5 percent increase once again.

**TESTIMONY:** **Delbert Chappel**, a resident of District 11, stated that he felt the legislators deserved a raise.

**MOTION:** **Senator Stennett** moved to send **H 747** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**

**H 707** **RELATING TO VOTERS.** **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Secretary of State, presented **H 707**. He explained that, first, **H 707** aligned electronic registration procedures with those used in registration by mail and required a clerk to send a verification of electronic voter registration by non-forwardable first class mail. Second, **H 707** required that the full legal name be used on voter registration. Third, **H 707** exempted phone numbers and e-mail addresses from public records. Fourth, **H 707** removed the exemption for United States and Allied military personnel from having their voter registration cancelled if they were not a U.S. citizen.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Harris** expressed a concern regarding the use of non-forwardable first class mail that would be returned to the clerk and resulted in the cancellation of a voter registration without the voter being aware. **Mr. Hancock** explained that the clerk mailed the verification to the mailing address so an individual who did not receive delivery at home would still receive it.

**Senator Burgoyne** expressed a similar concern and asked whether there was an effort to contact the voter by phone or e-mail prior to cancelling their registration. **Mr. Hancock** replied that nothing in the statute precluded the clerk from doing that, however, nothing required them to do that either.

**Senator Lee** expressed a concern that, by not providing phone numbers which were currently public, we were not being transparent.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to hold **H 707** in committee. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Winder** and **Senator Burgoyne** expressed the opinion that if the clerk had the phone number or e-mail address, there ought to be an attempt to contact the voter prior to cancelling their registration.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Senator Burgoyne** made a substitute motion that **H 707** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Chairwoman Lodge** called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion. **Vice Chairman Guthrie**, **Senators Winder**, **Heider**, **Stennett**, and **Burgoyne** voted aye. **Senators Harris**, **Lee**, and **Chairwoman Lodge** voted nay. The motion carried.

**H 720** **RELATING TO PERSONHOOD.** **Representative Tammy Nichols** presented **H 720**. She explained that **H 720** provided that environmental elements, artificial intelligence, non-human animals and inanimate objects shall not be granted personhood. She cited several examples of attempts to grant environmental elements, artificial intelligence, non-human animals and inanimate objects personhood and cautioned that the movement was gaining momentum.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Stennett** asked how we could reconcile corporations being granted personhood, but not environmental elements, artificial intelligence, non-human animals or inanimate objects. **Representative Nichols** responded that **H 720** specified environmental elements, artificial intelligence, non-human animals and inanimate objects.

**Senator Burgoyne** suggested that a better approach might be to wait until Idaho had an attempt to grant one of these items personhood and then enact legislation.

**MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send **H 720** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 9:26 am.

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Senator Lodge  
Chair

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Twyla Melton  
Secretary

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Meg Lawless  
Assisting Secretary