

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 21, 2024

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

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Bernt, Senators Anthon, Harris, Lee, Toews, and Ruchti

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senators Winder and Wintrow

**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 Guthrie** called the meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:04 a.m.

**WELCOME:** **Chairman Guthrie** welcomed all to the Committee meeting.

**NOTE:** **Chairman Guthrie** stated that the agenda was modified to accommodate the schedule of the presenters.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve the minutes of March 11, 2024. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Toews** moved to approve the minutes of March 12, 2024. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve the minutes of March 14, 2024. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 603** **STATE GOVERNMENT - Adds to existing law to prohibit state agencies from donating to or sponsoring a nongovernmental event or organization and to provide exceptions. Representative Monks** stated that **H 603** prohibited State departments from donating to, or sponsoring, non-governmental organizations unless specifically required by law or unless previously approved by the Governor. He clarified that there was a difference between a grant, a sponsorship, a donation, and a fee for service. He remarked that **H 603** did not prevent government organizations from paying a fee for a service. He remarked that he would outline **H 603** as it was currently written, then propose amendments to address concerns.

**Representative Monks** stated that donations and sponsorships from any of the 20 departments of State government were prohibited unless they had received prior written permission from the Governor. In addition, donations and sponsorships made by the State Board of Education, the Industrial Commission, or any board or commission within the department of self-governing agencies would be approved by the chief executive officer of such board or commission. He remarked that Idaho public universities were permitted to sponsor events if approved by the president of the institution. Finally, the Division of Financial Management produced a report outlining all donations and sponsorships.

**Representative Monks** proposed three amendments to **H 603** as it was currently written. He proposed a new subsection stating that **H 603** did not apply to boards, commissions, or other organizations that obtained their funding from dues, fees, or tax assessments by their members. Secondly, the 20 departments

of State government obtained approval from the director level rather than the Governor. Thirdly, he recommended modifying the language regarding the misuse of public funds.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Senator Bernt** provided an example of a local Meridian nonprofit that received funds from Health and Welfare. He asked if **H 603** affected funds going to this nonprofit. **Representative Monks** replied that he did not think it affected those funds because they were grants. He stated that the Director of Health and Welfare could approve those funds.

**Senator Anthon** stated that he was on an economic development board for the College of Southern Idaho (CSI), and that the board was a nonprofit organization. He asked how **H 603** impacted the board's work with CSI. **Representative Monks** asked if the donations were taxpayer dollars or privately collected. **Senator Anthon** replied that the general fund was mixed. **Representative Monks** stated that Subsection 3 of **H 603** was provided by Idaho's public universities, but the language could be further amended to address that concern. He remarked that the intent of **H 603** was to ensure that taxpayer dollars were used appropriately. **Senator Anthon** asked if donations and sponsorships were okay if the president of CSI approved them. **Representative Monks** replied that they were.

**Senator Ruchti** asked Representative Monks to review the proposed amendments. Chairman Guthrie passed out a summary of the amendments as currently proposed. The Committee reviewed the amendments.

**Senator Lee** inquired who was working on the proposed amendments and how quickly they could move forward. **Representative Monks** had packets under development and stated that he would provide the desired language. **Senator Lee** offered to help with the language.

**Chairman Guthrie** stated that the Governor's office was involved in developing the amendments as well.

**TESTIMONY:**

Written testimony in opposition to **H 603** appears in Attachment 1.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Harris** moved to send **H 603** to the **14th Order of Business** for possible amendment. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:**

Chairman Guthrie passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Bernt.

**RS 31690**

**Relating to a Concurrent Resolution of the Approved Administrative Rules of the Idaho Racing Division, the Idaho State Liquor Division, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, and the Endowment Fund Investment Board.** **Chairman Guthrie** stated that **RS 31690** was a rules concurrence for the Idaho Racing Division, the Idaho State Liquor Division, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, and the Endowment Fund Investment Board.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Lee** moved to send **RS 31690** to print. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 31691**

**Relating to a Concurrent Resolution of the Approved Administrative Rules of the Idaho State Lottery Commission.** **Chairman Guthrie** stated that **RS 31691** was a rules concurrence for the Idaho State Lottery Commission.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Lee** moved to send **RS 31691** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Bernt passed the gavel back to the Chairman.

**RS 31705  
RS 31706  
RS 31707  
RS 31708**

**Relating to Education.** **Senator Lee** yielded to Senator Lent to present. **Chairman Guthrie** invited Senator Lent to present all four RSs at one time and stated that he would entertain one motion to introduce all four. **Senator Lent** stated that the all four were related to **H 521** and concerned how funds were distributed and related, and the proposed dates for four-day and five-day school week schedule implementation. He remarked that **RS 31705** delayed the four-day five-day provision and implemented a different distribution model for the funds. **RS 31706** repealed the four-day five-day section in **H 521**. **RS 31707** set the distribution model and created a minimum of \$100,000 dollars and a maximum of \$1,000,000 over the ten-year period. **RS 31708** delayed the implementation of the fund created by **H 521** for one year to allow for more consideration.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Chairman Guthrie** commended Senator Lent for the hard work related to **H 521**.

**Senator Anthon** thanked Senator Lent for leading and bringing together all of the moving parts of **H 521**. He remarked that the changes to **H 521** were better for rural communities and upheld the long-standing tradition and policy of local control of the school districts.

**Senator Bernt** thanked Senator Lent for his hard work and remarked that he was concerned with the funding mechanism of **H 521**.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Anthon** moved to send **RS 31705, RS 31706, RS 31707, and RS 31708** to print. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 8:31 a.m.

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Senator Guthrie  
Chair

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Peggy Caraway  
Secretary