

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 2015

TIME: 1:30 p.m. or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW05

MEMBERS: Chairman Hartgen, Vice Chairman Anderson, Representatives Harris, Holtzclaw, Romrell, Chaney, Horman, Nielsen, Packer, Redman, King, Chew (Killen), Rudolph

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Mindy Montgomery, Dana Baney, Jane McClaran, Stephanie Butler, Tom Limbaugh, Industrial Commission;

Chairman Hartgen called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Hartgen welcomed **Rep. William Killen**, who is substituting for **Rep. Chew**.

MOTION: **Rep. Anderson** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 17, 2015. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1168 **Sen. Cameron** presented **S 1068** to the committee. He stated this bill will permanently reduce the premium tax for worker's compensation insurance premiums from 2.5% to 2%. There should not be a fiscal impact since currently the premium tax rate for worker's compensation insurance premiums in at 2%.

In response to questions, **Sen. Cameron** explained there is no mechanism to reimburse businesses. There is a three million dollar transfer pending to the Department of Labor budget. The Industrial Commission funds will be fine and should grow.

MOTION: **Rep. Packer** made a motion to send **S 1168** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Tom Limbaugh, on behalf of the Industrial Commission testified that the department is **neutral on S 1168**. If the Industrial Commission revenues and expenditures follow the projection, it is possible the commission may be requesting an increase in premium tax at some time in the future.

In response to questions, **Mr. Limbaugh** explained there are a number of factors that affect the premium tax rate, currently there is no growth causing the premiums to remain flat. He also explained that the Industrial Commission is a court for workman's compensation disputes. Workers compensation is charged to the employer based on the type of work classification.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Redman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Hartgen recognized and thanked the committee page **Ali Snooks** and secretary for their work and service to the committee.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Representative Hartgen
Chair

Heidi McKay
Secretary