

MINUTES  
**HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 11, 2016  
**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW05  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Hartgen (Hartgen), Vice Chairman Anderson, Representatives Harris, Holtzclaw, Romrell, Chaney, Horman, Nielsen, Packer, Redman, King, Chew, Rudolph  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Holtzclaw, Chaney, Chew  
**GUESTS:**  
**Vice Chairman Anderson** called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.  
**MOTION:** **Rep. Redman** made motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2016 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**RS 24402:** **Ken Edmunds**, Director, Idaho Department of Labor, presented **RS 24402**. This proposed legislation would stabilize the benefit amount at 55% of the state average weekly wage paid by covered employers regardless of the economical state. This proposed legislation would also create a sliding scaled for the maximum weeks of entitlement to benefits depending on economic conditions, the scale would range from 20 weeks in a good economy to 28 weeks in a bad economy.  
In response to committee questions, **Mr. Edmunds** explained that the State of Idaho offers training that is funded by the state so if a person's skill set is in an industry that may be struggling, that individual can obtain training in another skill set and be able to find employment in another industry. **Mr. Edmunds** also explained that if the Federal Government imposed an extension in benefits, in order to stay eligible for federal funds, the state may need to extend the benefits policy.  
**MOTION:** **Rep. Redman** made a motion to introduce **RS 24402**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**S 1202:** **David Fulkerson**, Interim Administrator, Division of Human Resources, presented **S1202**. This legislation would change Idaho Code 6753-03, which contains the list of the state non classified positions. This legislation would add all employees in the Stem Action Center, Office of Species Conservation, Office of Drug Policy, and Office of Energy Resources, to the list of non classified employees.  
**MOTION:** **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **S 1202** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Harris** will sponsor the bill on the floor.  
**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:44 P.M.

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Representative Anderson  
Vice Chair

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Chelsea Cantrell  
Secretary