

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 31, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW05

MEMBERS: Chairman Holtzclaw, Vice Chairman Bundy, Representatives Kingsley, Wisniewski, Weber, McCann, Cheatum, Hawkins, Healey, Miller, Price, Wheeler, Chew (Wilson), Roberts

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Weber

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Holtzclaw called the meeting to order at 1:29 pm.

H 428: **Rep. Bundy** presented **H 428** to the committee. He stated this bill will be lowering employers taxes, saving them 44 million dollars in net savings in the first year. He introduced **Jani Revier**, the Director of the Department of Labor, to present in depth the content of **H 428**.

Jani Revier, Director of the Department of Labor, suggested a change in **H 428** which would reduce the multiplier for the unemployment insurance program from 1.3 to 1.2. She provided a brief overview of how the program works, emphasizing its federal-state partnership and the funding mechanism through employer taxes. The current tax formula, based on Idaho Code 72-1350, considers the balance of the trust fund, revenue needed, and the high-cost benefit years over a two-decade period. The proposed change is driven by significant wage growth in recent years, leading to a shortfall in funds for maintaining 15.6 months of benefits. The adjustment aims to address this gap and align the system with the current economic landscape.

Those speaking **in support** were **Fred Birnbaum**, Idaho Freedom Foundation Boise, and **Joe Maloney**. They were of the opinion the bill will help point Idaho in the right direction for the Unemployment Insurance Program.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **H 428** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Bundy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 429: **Rep. Nelsen** introduced **H 429**, which addresses Idaho Code 59-1363. When a member is getting ready to retire, they have the option of purchasing 48 months of service. This bill sets the time-line of 90 days or less prior to retirement to purchase those services.

MOTION: **Rep. Roberts** made a motion to send **H 429** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Nelsen** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 430: **Rep. Nelsen** introduced **H 430**, which addresses Idaho Code 59-1352. The bill adds school employee member to that section of code which was admitted to the code by mistake.

MOTION: **Rep. Weber** made a motion to send **H 430** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Nelsen** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

- H 431:** **Rep. Nelsen** introduced **H 431**, which addresses Idaho Code 59-1308. Rep. Nelsen introduced the Executive Director for PERSI, **Mike Hampton**, to present in depth the content of **H 431**.
- Mike Hampton**, the Executive Director of PERSI, explained **H 431** aims to define contributions and investment earnings for the PERSI choice 401k plan. In his presentation, he provided a concise overview of the Secure Act 2.0. To ensure the state's compliance with the IRS code, there is a need to incorporate the option for after-tax contributions into the choice 401k plan. The language in **H 431** suggests an update to Idaho Code 59-1308, specifically addressing contributions and investment earnings under supplemental benefit plans, and introducing provisions for after-tax contributions.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **H 431** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Nelsen** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 432:** **Rep. Nelsen** introduced **H 432**, which addresses Idaho Code 59-1316. The bill aims to amend current language in the bill to establish penalties for the disclosure of confidential member records. **H 432** also stops any subpoenas without judge involvement or court order to obtain confidential records.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to send **H 432** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Nelsen** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 433:** **Rep. Horman** introduced **H 433**. She stated there has been difficulty in hiring. This bill takes a different approach by removing a barrier to hiring and expanding the applicant pool using skills-based hiring. Rep. Horman introduced **Rep. Wheeler**.
- Rep. Wheeler** stated Idaho will be leading the nation by supporting this bill. IT positions, administrative positions and several other agency positions will be positively affected by **H 433**.
- Jonathan Wolfson**, Cicero Action, spoke **in support** of the bill, stating this bill works alongside the Idaho LAUNCH program coherently.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Weber** made a motion to send **H 433** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Horman** and **Rep. Wheeler** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

Representative Holtzclaw
Chair

Jacobi Van Amburg
Secretary