

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 17, 2012

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Loertscher, Vice Chairman Crane, Representative(s) Stevenson, Black, Anderson, Andrus, Bilbao, Luker, Palmer, Simpson, Guthrie, Henderson, McGeachin, Sims, Batt, Smith(30), King, Higgins, Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None.

GUESTS: Tamara Mackenthun, Division of Veterans Services; Jeff Anderson, Idaho State Liquor Division; Charles Stark, Occupy Boise; Chris Halvorson, Endowment Fund Investment Board; Larry Johnson, Endowment Fund Investment Board; Patrick Hodges, IDL; Jan Sylvester; Jared Tatro, OPE.

Chairman Loertscher called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

RS20766 **Tamara Mackenthun**, representing Idaho's Division of Veterans Services, presented **RS20766** to the committee. She explained this legislation expands the admission criteria for Idaho State Veterans Homes. Federal law has been changed from all to any parents whose child died while serving in the armed forces. She predicts there will be little to no effect with Idaho coming in line with the federal law. Admission to Veterans Homes is held to 25% for spouses and parents. The state receives a per diem charge for these residents from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA). Veterans always have preference for admission to the homes.

In response to questions from the committee, Ms. Mackenthun clarified that if the home is at capacity and a veteran is returning home, parents already residing in the home are not asked to leave. The Division of Veterans Services places veterans in contract homes and then moves them into Idaho State Veterans Homes as space becomes available. She further explained that the population of the homes is very fluid and they have openings on a weekly basis. This legislation affects a small number of people. She noted there have been less than 20 gold star license plates issued for parents of a child who died while serving in the armed forces.

MOTION: **Rep. King** made a motion to introduce **RS20766**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS20779 **Larry Johnson**, Manager of Investments for the Idaho Department of Lands Endowment Fund, presented **RS20779** to the committee. He explained this legislation will make a minor adjustment to the interest rate when a person owes the Endowment Fund for extracting minerals whether accidentally or intentionally on state lands. The current method used to calculate damages was put into place when endowments were invested 100% in fixed income. This legislation will change the interest rate to the rate set annually by the State Treasurer for legal judgments. He noted that collection of interest for these violations are a rare occurrence.

MOTION: **Rep. Luker** made a motion to introduce **RS20779**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS20837

Jeff Anderson, Director of the Idaho State Liquor Division, presented **RS20837** to the committee. He explained the purpose of this legislation is to make housekeeping changes to Title 23 and there is no fiscal impact. He further clarified that the purpose is to modernize the language and end references that date back to the end of prohibition. The legislation will remove language relating to the position of Secretary as well as the duties of the Secretary. The Idaho State Liquor Division is not a commission but a division of the Office of the Governor. There is no in-house counsel, servants or inspectors. He explained the legislation will also remove or delete any language referring to vendors.

In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Anderson explained that the Idaho State Liquor Division establishes and maintains liquor stores and owns all of the products. The Idaho State Liquor Division does not then sell the products back through the use of vendors.

MOTION:

Rep. Smith made a motion to introduce **RS20837**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Loertscher stated the committee would be meeting on Wednesday, January 18th at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the committee; the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Lissa Cochrane
Secretary