

MINUTES  
**HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 31, 2012

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW05

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Block, Vice Chairman Hartgen, Representative(s) Lake, Trail, Marriott, Thayn, Simpson, Loertscher, Nessel, Ringo, King

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None.

**GUESTS:** Tamara Mackenthun, Idaho Division of Veterans Services; M. Alex Neiwirth and Daniel Wolf, Idaho Association of Government Employees; Michael Savoie, Department of Human Resources; David Hahn, Idaho Division of Financial Management; Todd Rains, Senate Intern; Dustin Hurst, Idaho Reporter.com; Cheri Campbell and Kimberlee Hall, citizens.

**Chairman Block** called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Representative Thayn** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2012 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Representative Ringo** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 21044:** **Representative Thayn** presented **RS 21044**, which would allow the Department of Administration to create Health Savings Accounts for state officials and employees and their dependents who voluntarily choose to participate in a high deductible health plan. Rep. Thayn answered questions posed by committee members concerning tax deductions, costs, prior agency recommendation, and language modification.

**ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Representative Marriott** made a motion to approve **RS 21044**.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Representative Lake** made a substitute motion to return **RS 21044** to the sponsor for inclusion of more detail as to the mechanics of the proposed legislation. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 418:** **Representative Lake** presented **H 418**, which excludes travel and subsistence expense reimbursement when determining "Salary" for PERSI benefits.

**MOTION:** **Representative Marriott** made a motion to send **H 418** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Representative Lake** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Ms. Tamara Mackenthun**, Administrative Support Manager, Division of Veterans Services, presented an update on the wide range of Veterans services and advocacy, which include assistance with benefits and education, long-term care and quality of life in the three Idaho State Veterans Homes, and dignified interment at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery.

**Ms. Mackenthun** responded to a variety of questions from committee members concerning suicide prevention measures; cost impact of a bill currently before the Legislature, which relates to provisions for parents who have lost a child while on active duty; and the Silver Medallion memento program, proceeds from which go to the maintenance of the Idaho Veterans Cemetery. Ms. Mackenthun will provide committee members with follow-up information.

**Chairman Block** thanked **Ms. Mackenthun** for her report and expressed special thanks on behalf of the committee for the service of all U. S. Veterans.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

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Representative Block  
Chair

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Jeanne Clayton  
Secretary