

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 09, 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: Larry Johnson, Endowment Fund Investment Board; Jeff Anderson, Idaho State Liquor Division; Pat Hodges, Department of Lands; Jan Sylvester.

Chairman Loertscher called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

H 372: **Larry Johnson**, Department of Lands Endowment Fund, presented **H 372**, legislation to revise the interest rate when someone illegally extracts minerals on state lands to the legal interest rate. The existing statute requires that an average interest rate be used to calculate damages, but this method was put into place at a time when the endowments were invested primarily in fixed income. The legal interest rate set annually by the Idaho Treasurer is widely used for determining the interest rate on legal judgments.

MOTION: **Rep. Black** made a motion to send **H 372** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Black** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 373: **Jeff Anderson**, Idaho State Liquor Division, addressed **H 373**, which was held in committee for a time certain until February 9, 2012. The legislation contains simple housekeeping changes to update a statute that has not been updated in years. The legislation strikes obsolete terms, deletes obsolete references to servants and in-house legal counsel, and replaces vendors with distributors. Mr. Anderson stated the issue with this bill is found in Section 1, subsection (c), when defining spirits which are sold by volume and not by weight. Leaving the word "alcohol" in the definition would include beer which is sold by weight.

MOTION: **Rep. Higgins** made a motion to **HOLD H 373** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21217: **Jeff Anderson** presented **RS 21217**, legislation to correct the issue with **H 373**. **RS 21217** will delete the use of the word "alcohol" when defining distilled spirits.

In response to questions, **Mr. Anderson** stated that distilled spirits and wine are sold by volume and beer is sold by weight. Since the Liquor Act is defining spirits, it was necessary to change the language so that it did not include beer.

MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to introduce **RS 21217** and send it directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Batt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 21156: **Ty Palmer**, citizen, presented **RS 21156**, legislation to bring Title 67 into the current standard. The proposed legislation would require each state agency to submit their strategic plans in an electronic format. Each agency would be limited to ten (10) paper copies to be kept or distributed at the will of the agency and each agency must have the report or document available on their website.

In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Palmer** stated this legislation would apply to all state agencies covered under Title 67 that have to submit plans and reports. It would improve transparency for the agencies in addition to providing a cost savings for the state. The legislation limits the agencies to ten (10) paper copies to distribute to constitutional officers. For additional copies, people would print their own. Previously, over 100 were prepared and some mailed out.

MOTION: **Vice-Chairman Crane** made a motion to introduce **RS 21156**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee; the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Lissa Cochrane
Secretary