

MINUTES

HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, February 09, 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:** Representative Loertscher
- GUESTS:** Jim Monroe, PERSI; Vicki Tokita, Kathy Osborn, Kim Toryanski, Idaho Department of Human Resources; Rosie Andueza and Ori Garcia, Department of Health & Welfare; Christine Tiddens, Catholic Charities; Dustin Hurst, Idaho Reporter.com; Wayne Hammon, Shelby Kerns and David Fullerson, Department of Financial Management; Tammy Perkins, Governor's Office; Keith Bybee, Legislative Services Office; Bob Fick, Department of Labor; Cindy Hedge, Idaho AFL-CIO; Jane McClaran and Tom Limbaugh, Idaho Industrial Commission.
- Chairman Block** called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Representative Lake** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 31, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Representative Lake** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 21159:** **Representative Perry** presented **RS 21159**, which pertains to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. This money is issued as a monthly cash allowance and is generally distributed via public assistance benefit cards. TANF is designed to be a supplement to low income families for necessary or urgent needs. Currently, there are no restrictions as to how the public assistance benefit cards or cash obtained with public assistance benefit cards can be used. This legislation seeks to prohibit the use of public assistance benefit cards or the cash obtained with public assistance benefit cards, from being expended for inappropriate purchases or venues.
- Representative Hartgen** asked if current legislation can prohibit use of these cards or cash allowances at Indian casinos. **Representative Perry** will investigate and provide a definitive answer. When asked if the Department of Health & Welfare is able to check where the cards are used, Representative Perry answered in the affirmative.
- MOTION:** **Representative Marriott** made a motion to introduce **RS 21159**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Mr. Keith Bybee**, Legislative Budget Analyst, presented a summary of Department of Commerce budget requests and Governor's recommendations. For FY 2013, the total Agency request is \$39,250,700 versus the Governor's recommendation of \$39,976,000.
- Mr. Bybee** responded to committee members' questions on personnel costs and the IGEM program, which will utilize an existing position to coordinate and monitor grants to bridge the funding gap between the development of a technology at an Idaho university and its commercialization in the marketplace.

RS 21213: **Mr. Bob Fick**, Communications Manager, Department of Labor, presented **RS 21213**, which creates a July 31, 2012 deadline for corporate officers to opt out of the unemployment insurance program. It also creates a procedure for corporate officers of newly established businesses in Idaho to opt out of the unemployment insurance program from the time they begin operating in Idaho and at least the two calendar years following that date.

Committee members asked about reasons for missing the deadline, the tax pros and cons of opting out of the program, dissemination of relevant information to eligible businesses, and number of people taking advantage of the program last year (approximately 8,000).

MOTION: **Representative Thayn** made a motion to introduce **RS 21213**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Mr. Bob Fick, Communications Manager, Department of Labor, presented the Agency's budget request for FY 2013. Total Agency request is \$5,084,000. The Governor's recommendation is \$6,112,000.

Ms. Vicki Tokita, Administrator, Department of Human Resources, presented the Agency's budget request for FY 2013, the total of which is \$1,746,700, versus the Governor's recommendation of \$1,663,000.

Mr. Jim Monroe, Chief Financial Officer, PERSI, presented the Agency's budget request for FY 2013, the total of which is \$13,493,900. The Governor's recommendation totals \$13,376,900. The Agency has no line item appropriations requests for 2013.

Committee members asked questions regarding the number of active, inactive, and retired members, as well as contribution rates. The PERSI Board voted to postpone rate increases, which are now scheduled to begin on July 1, 2013.

Ms. Jane McClaran, Idaho Industrial Commission, reviewed the Agency's budget request for FY 2013, the total of which is \$14,618,300. The Governor's recommendation totals the same amount, \$14,618,300. The one line item of \$337,900 is a request for additional appropriations in dedicated funds for personnel costs. She stated the commission's compensation ratio of 81% is among the lowest in the state. Request by division is: Compensation - \$91,300; Rehabilitation - \$99,800; Crime Victims - \$33,200; Adjudication - \$113,600. The total increase is 4.4% above the base.

Ms. McClaran responded to questions and comments by committee members on base adjustment decreases, workforce reduction, and workload increase.

Mr. Keith Bybee, Legislative Service Analyst, gave committee members an explanation on the use of a digitized score card spreadsheet, which will be forwarded to them via email, and asked that the form be completed digitally and returned to him by close of business, Friday, February 10, or at the latest by Monday morning, February 13.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Representative Block
Chair

Jeanne Clayton
Secretary