

MINUTES  
**HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 13, 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:**
- GUESTS:** Ed Hawley, Administrative Rules; Bob Fick, Department of Labor; Jim Monroe and Ray Polzin, PERSI; Tracie Bent and Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education; Vicki Tokita and Kim Toryanski, Department of Human Resources; Donna Yule, Idaho Public Education Association; Roger Brown, Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor Otter's Office; Mona Greenlee, Risch Pisca; Mike Reynoldson, Micron; Jay Larsen, Idaho Technology Council; Keith Bybee, Legislative Services Office; Jeff Sayer, Christy Newbold, Megan Ronk, Idaho Department of Commerce; Damien Bard, Eddie Yen, Xu Fang, Armando Orellana, International Division, Idaho Department of Commerce
- Chairman Block** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- RS 21267:** **Mr. Jeff Sayer**, Director, Idaho Department of Commerce, presented **RS 21267**, which transforms the Idaho Innovation Council at the Department of Commerce to the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission (IGEM) Council and provides definition and accountability for membership and grant distribution. The legislation corresponds with a budgetary line item recommended by the Governor for the IGEM Grant Fund at the Department of Commerce totaling \$1 million. IGEM related items for ongoing support for the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CASE) totals \$2 million, and grants to be distributed by the Higher Education Research Council total \$2 million, although these items are not tied to the adoption of this legislation.
- Mr. Sayer** thanked **Mr. Roger Brown**, Deputy Chief of Staff, Governor's office, who worked with the Department of Commerce to formalize this legislation, which is closely modeled after similar programs in Utah and Colorado.
- In response to questions from the committee, **Mr. Brown** presented information about the Utah model, which is 10 years old and only now beginning to yield results. **Mr. Brown** emphasized this program would provide results over the long-term.
- Representative Lake** questioned the language on line 27 (iii).
- ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Representative Simpson** made a motion to introduce **RS 21267**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Chairman Block** turned over the gavel to **Vice Chairman Hartgen** in order to present **RS 21158**.
- RS 21158:** **Chairman Block** presented **RS 21158**, which is a concurrent resolution to reject a paragraph in a pending rule of the Department of Administration relative to Rules Governing Group Insurance, which is not consistent with legislative intent. The effect of this concurrent resolution would be to prevent the paragraph from going into effect.
- In answer to a question, **Chairman Block** stated the rule change relates to the date that group insurance could be received and corresponds with a change made in the Senate.

- MOTION:** **Representative Ringo** made a motion to introduce **RS 21158**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Vice Chairman Hartgen** turned over the gavel to **Chairman Block**.
- Mr. Jeff Sayer**, Director, Department of Commerce, presented a summary of the Department's International Division, which focuses on creating new jobs, helping new and existing business in the State, and promoting tourism.
- Mr. Damien Bard**, Administrator, International Business Development, Department of Commerce, introduced **Mr. Xu Fang**, China Trade Office Manager for Idaho. Mr. Fang gave an overview on China's trade, upcoming events, and Project 60, the purpose of which is to increase exports and attract international investment capital to Idaho.
- Mr. Bard** introduced **Mr. Armando Orellana**, Mexico Trade Office Manager for Idaho, who gave detailed information on Mexico's inflation and exchange rates, security concerns, tourism, education intern and mentoring programs with Idaho universities, the dehydrated apples export program, and upcoming trade shows. The total amount of exports from Mexico to Idaho in 2010-11 was reported to be considerably higher than in 2008.
- Mr. Bard** introduced **Mr. Eddie Yen**, Asia Trade Office Manager from Taiwan, who presented an overview of Taiwan (population of that country is 23.1 million, 50th in the world); U.S. exports (\$25.76 billion); Idaho exports were about \$320 million in 2011. Mr. Yen spoke of Project 60, which focuses on investor recruitment, increasing trade show participation, tourism and agriculture promotions. Mr. Yen also covered new export successes and new opportunities for Idaho exports. In response to the committee's request, Mr. Yen will provide more information on the EB-5 Immigrant Investment Promotion.
- RECONSIDERATION RS 21267:** **Representative Lake** reported that he spoke with the authors of **RS 21267**, relating to the Global Entrepreneurial Mission Grant Funds (IGEM), which the committee voted earlier in the meeting to introduce. Representative Lake said the authors agreed that line 27 (iii) should be changed by deleting the words "business" and "the" to clarify the intent of the sentence.
- SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Representative Lake** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 21267** with the following change on line 27 (iii): delete the words "business" and "the", so the line reads as follows: "The house and senate commerce and human resource committees; and...". **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- BUDGET:** **Mr. Keith Bybee**, Legislative Services Office, presented a budget spreadsheet for Commerce, Labor, Human Resources, and the Industrial Commission, which is a compilation of the committee members' ranking preferences.
- ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Representative Lake** made a motion to accept the Governor's recommendations for all of the departments: Commerce, Labor, Human Resources and the Industrial Commission.
- Representative Hartgen** argued against the appropriations request by the Industrial Commission for salary increases. His rationale was JFAC budget constraints. A brief question-and-answer period ensued.
- SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Representative Hartgen** made a substitute motion to accept the Governor's recommendations with the exception of the salary increase for the Industrial Commission.
- ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Chairman Block called for a roll call vote. **The motion carried with a vote of 6 AYE and 5 NAY. Reps. Hartgen, Marriott, Thayn, Simpson, Loertscher, and Chairman Block voting in favor of the motion; Reps. Lake, Trail, Nessel, Ringo, and King voting in opposition to the motion.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

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Representative Block  
Chair

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Jeanne Clayton  
Secretary