

## MINUTES

# HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012
- TIME:** 1:30 p.m. or Upon Adjournment
- 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:** Mike Rush, State Board of Education; Orié Garcia, Rosie Andueza, and Russ Barron, Department of Health & Welfare; Tracie Bent and Marilyn Whitney, State Board of Education; Janine Rush-Byers, Mike Reynoldson and Dee Mooney, Micron; Briane LeClaire, Idaho Freedom Foundation; Ray Stark, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce; Joe Stegner, University of Idaho; Tab Roder, TW Telecom; Jay Larsen and Doug Jones, Idaho Technical College; Jayson Ronk, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry; Bruno Bennett, University of Idaho; Jeff Sayer and Megan Ronk, Department of Commerce; Rich Raimondi, Hewlett Packard; Amy Johnson, Boise State University; Kent Kunz, Idaho State University; John Eaton, Idaho Association of Realtors; Max Greenlee, Risch Pisca; Pam Eaton, Idaho Retailers Association
- Chairman Block** called the meeting to order at 2:55 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Representative Ringo** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 13, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Representative Ringo** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 15, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 546:** **Mr. Jeff Sayer**, Director of Commerce, presented **H 546**, which amends Sections 67-4725 and 67-4726 to transform the Idaho Innovation Council at the Department of Commerce to the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission (IGEM) Council, to provide definition and accountability for membership and grant distribution of funds to foster research technology. **H 546** also adds new sections defining the responsibilities and focus of the IGEM Council and the distribution of commercialization of revenue generated by IGEM research efforts.
- Mr. Sayer** reviewed in detail the priorities of IGEM and commended the combined efforts of the Governor's Office, the State Board of Education, the three major Idaho universities, and individuals from industry in bringing the program to fruition. A balanced IGEM Council will be created to advise the Department of Commerce, State Board of Education, state colleges and universities, and other state, local federal, and private sector agencies on innovation interests and potentials. An annual report will be made to the Governor, the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, the House and Senate Commerce and Human Resource Committee, and the office of the State Board of Education.
- A thorough question-and-answer period ensued. Lack of details in **H 546** was questioned, and **Mr. Sayer** stressed that IGEM is only in the beginning stages. The Council has been given the responsibility to study the next steps and make recommendations.

Testimony was heard from **Mike Rush**, State Board of Education, **Mike Reynoldson**, Micron; **Joe Stegner**, University of Idaho; **Tab Roder**, TW Telecom; **Jayson Ronk**, IACI; **Jay Larsen** and **Doug Jones**, Idaho Technical College; **Rich Raimondi**, Hewlett-Packard; **Amy Johnson**, Boise State University; **John Eaton**, Idaho Association of Realtors; and **Kent Kunz**, Idaho State University, all of whom testified **in support** of **H 546**. **Briane LeClaire**, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified **in opposition** to **H 546** because of the belief that the money would be better used for the private sector to spend as it deems fit.

**MOTION:** **Representative Lake** made a motion to send **H 546** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Representative Lake** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 522:** **Representative Perry** presented **H 522**, which specifies that monetary benefits received by recipients from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program be limited to certain purchases and activities. 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 can be used. **H 522** seeks to prohibit the use of this assistance for inappropriate purchase or venues. An amendment to **H 522** was also presented, which excludes these restrictions for the "aged, blind or disabled," because the Social Security Administration deems restriction to be unconstitutional for this group of individuals.

Questions from the committee were posed for **Representative Perry** and **Mr. Russ Barron**, Department of Health and Welfare, with respect to restricted venues, appropriate items to be purchased, education of recipients, and methods of monitoring and correcting abuses. Of particular interest was how to limit alcohol purchases in contract liquor stores that are housed in some grocery stores.

**Ms. Pam Eaton**, Idaho Retailers Association, testified as to the Association's concern with respect to how these restrictions would affect grocery stores that offer liquor in contract liquor stores. She agreed to work with **Representative Perry** to develop an amendment to **H 522**, addressing these concerns.

**MOTION:** **Representative Simpson** made a motion to send **H 522** to General Orders. **Representative Thayn** seconded the motion. **Motion carried by voice vote**. **Representative Perry** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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Representative Block  
Chair

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Jeanne Clayton  
Secretary