

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
SIMS SUBCOMMITTEE
Rules-Subcommittee #3

DATE: Wednesday, January 16, 2013

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Sims, Representatives Batt, Gannon, Monks

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None.

GUESTS: Paul Kjellander, Idaho Public Utilities Commission; Mack Redford, Idaho Public Utilities Commission; Don Howell, Attorney General, Public Utilities Commission; Joe Leckie, Idaho Public Utilities Commission; Brag Hunt, OARC; Raeleen Welton, Westerberg & Associates; Tana Cory, Bureau of Occupational Licenses; David Hoffman, self; Lee Rice, self.

Chairman Sims called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m.

DOCKET NO. 31-4101-1201: **Paul Kjellander**, Director, Idaho Public Utilities Commission, presented **Docket No. 31-4101-1201**. He stated a lot has changed since 1988 and that there are 300,000-400,000 less land lines than before. He said broadband and new phone technology has caused a shift in customer relations.

Rep. Batt suggested the Subcommittee accept the rule, except the deletion of 502 (1)(a), they should keep that in the rule.

In response to questions, **Mr. Kjellander** discussed emergency service restoration and it's importance in regards to keeping customers satisfied. He also stated that land lines are still around because they are usually part of packaged deals.

Edward Lodge, Century Link, stated that customers are very important to their company and they do whatever is necessary to keep them.

In response to questions, **Mr. Lodge** stated there is competition throughout the state for a fair market.

MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to recommend approval of **Docket No. 31-4101-1201** to the full committee with the exception of **Section 502.1 paragraph (a)**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

DOCKET NO. 03-0101-1201: **Tana Cory**, Director, Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses, presented a short overview of the Bureau and it's organization.

In response to questions, **Ms. Cory** stated that the investigative/inspections part of the Commission is very busy. She stated that the Attorney General's office could not handle the heavy workload so they now use in-house Administrative Law attorneys.

Roger Hales, private attorney, Bureau of Occupational Licenses, presented **Docket No. 03-0101-1201**. He stated the operations of the Athletic Commission are funded solely by the applicants, licensees, registration, and examination fees and receive no federal funds.

Mr. Hales stated that there is a financial independence issue with the Athletic Commission. He also stated that the Pending Rules were created because a fighter died in Idaho. He also stated the rules protect fighters by regulating fighting.

Mr. Hales stated there are two ways to raise money, raise license fees, and raise gate fees. He stated they have raised some funds and the Commission is stabilizing. He also stated that at the request of the fighters, they have eliminated the penalty for fighters who do not renew their license every year.

Mr. Hales reviewed the guidelines for children 12 years of age and younger, promoter's responsibility to report results, and fighter gloves.

In response to questions, **Mr. Hales** stated the Commission is in crisis and they have figured out a solution. He stated they have looked at reducing fees, but that would have reduced their revenue by \$10,000-15,000. He stated they have also looked at pay-per-view options but there are constitutional questions regarding this. He stated that the best action was to pass the increase on to the promoters. Mr. Hales quickly reviewed the Commission's financial situation for the Subcommittee.

Tom Katsilometes, Chairman, Athletic Commission, stated gate fees and sanction charges are included in other states as well.

David Hoffman, representing himself, stated he has been involved in MMA since 1967 and is troubled that martial artists are required to pay fees to the Commission. He believes the sport should be self-regulated like high school football. He also stated that amateur football players do not have to pay for licenses. He also stated if the fees are raised, the support of the sport will leave.

Lee Rice, representing himself, believes that MMA needs to be self-regulated in Idaho. He also believes the state shouldn't regulate the sport. He stated the fighters, promoters, and managers should work with the Athletic Commission directly without state involvement.

Chairman Sims said because of time constraints **Docket No. 03-0101-1201** will be held in the Subcommittee until the next meeting.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned 10:59 a.m.

Representative Sims
Chair

Kasey Perkins
Secretary