

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 21, 2014

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW05

MEMBERS: Chairman Hartgen, Vice Chairman Anderson(31), Representatives Loertscher, Anderst, Hancey, Harris, Holtzclaw, Mendive, Romrell, VanOrden, King, Woodings

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Tom Limbaugh, Lindsay Egbert, Patti Vaughn, Mindy Montgomery and Jane McClaran, Industrial Commission; David Fulkerson, Division of Human Resources

Chairman Hartgen called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2014. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Hancey** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2014 meeting of the VanOrden Subcommittee on Administrative Rules. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Anderson(31)** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2014 meeting of the Harris Subcommittee on Administrative Rules. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Rep. VanOrden presented her subcommittee's findings on the Administrative Rules they reviewed from the Department of Labor, Office of the Governor (Department of Human Resources), and Industrial Commission. She said the subcommittee's recommendation was to approve **Docket Nos. 09-0130-1301, 09-0135-1301, 15-0401-1302, 17-0209-1301, 17-0210-1301, and 17-0211-1301**, which represent all dockets that were before the subcommittee.

MOTION: **Rep. VanOrden** made a motion to approve **Docket Nos. 09-0130-1301, 09-0135-1301, 15-0401-1302, 17-0209-1301, 17-0210-1301, and 17-0211-1301.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Rep. Harris presented his subcommittee's findings on the Administrative Rules they reviewed from the Division of Veterans' Services, Department of Commerce, and Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI). He said the subcommittee's recommendation was to approve **Docket Nos. 21-0102-1301, 21-0108-1301, 28-0207-1301, 28-0301-1301, 28-0304-1301, 59-0103-1401, and 59-0106-1301**, which represent all dockets that were before the subcommittee.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to approve **Docket Nos. 21-0102-1301, 21-0108-1301, 28-0207-1301, 28-0301-1301, 28-0304-1301, 59-0103-1401, and 59-0106-1301.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22547:

Rep. Harris presented **RS 22547**, which he said repeals Title 59, Chapter 15, Idaho Code. This Code section is from 1975, and received appropriated funds in 1978. It deals with the Supplemental Retirement System, which provides retirement allowances to widows of governors of Idaho, and to widows of United States senators and congressmen of Idaho. In order to qualify for these spousal retirement benefits, the governor, senator or congressman must have completed at least four years of service. Benefits start when the widow reaches age 65 and are equal to 2.5% of the current annual compensation for the office previously held by her spouse, times the number of years he served, payable in equal monthly installments. It is stated that the annual amount shall not be less than \$4,800 and not more than \$10,800. The retirement allotment shall also be reduced by the amount of retirement allowance received from any other retirement system operated by the state or federal government, except Social Security benefits. There is also a provision for paying reasonable expenses incurred as a result of a last illness, including funeral expenses, if those expenses are not otherwise paid from another source. **Rep. Harris** explained that this program is now obsolete because eventually the program was limited to those currently enrolled, and the last remaining person receiving benefits is now deceased.

Responding to the question of why this is being addressed now, **Rep. Harris** stated that this program singles out certain individuals for special privileges, so it is both obsolete and inappropriate. The program did not address widowers, only widows, and before the law was enacted certain spouses of deceased officials were able to receive assistance via concurrent resolution.

Don Drum, Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI), stated this system has not been used since the 1990s, and there is no person still living who would meet the qualifications of the plan as written. PERSI does not object to this Code section being removed. **Mr. Drum** stated he was not aware this Code section was still on the books until he received a phone call this year from a reporter asking about appropriations for the program. He said having not been part of PERSI in the 1970s through the 1990s, he does not know why the program was not removed from the books before now.

Responding to questions about the contents of the fund, **Mr. Drum** said that originally there was a balance of \$80,000 and later an appropriation of \$170,000 was made. It is his belief that originally the monies were handled by the State Treasurer. He said if any money remains in the fund, PERSI would be happy to return it to the state.

In response to questions about the contents of the fund, **Rep. Harris** said it was overrun by \$30,000. It was a treasury account and is currently closed.

MOTION:

Rep. Holtzclaw made a motion to introduce **RS 22547**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Representative Hartgen
Chair

Mary Tipps
Secretary