

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 25, 2015

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW05

MEMBERS: Chairman Hartgen, Vice Chairman Anderson, Representatives Harris, Holtzclaw, Romrell, Chaney, Horman, Nielsen, Packer, Redman, King, Chew, Rudolph

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Romrell

GUESTS: Kent Nelson, Ron Smith, U of I

Chairman Hartgen called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. King** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1079: **Keith Simila**, Executive Director, Board of Engineers and Land Surveyors, presented **S 1079** which provides minor changes to the requirements for plats, records of survey, monuments and the fundamental examinations for college students. There are basic features that land surveyors place on plats and records of survey prior to submitting them for filing or recording in county courthouses. The change will make the basic requirements for documents in order to bring consistency. The basic requirements assist users in orienting themselves and making sure the scaling of these products is correct when copies are enlarged or reduced. The media that plats and records of survey are printed on as described in current law is no longer available.

Mr. Simila said there was a change last year that attempted to address this, but it did not change the law in three section of Idaho Code where media is described. This resulted in inconsistency in Idaho Code. The revised law replaces the obsolete language with new media requirements that fits with current technology and the needs of the counties and surveyors.

Mr. Simila also said this legislation addresses changes in the two licensing examinations taken by students in their senior year or after graduation. The test can now be taken electronically. The board would like students to pass the examination before they apply for their intern certificate. This legislation will make technical changes to enable all professional land surveyors to set monuments and thus protect public interest.

In response to questions, **Mr. Simila** stated the plats and surveys are still in hard copy which are filed in county offices. This legislation does not require that plats and surveys are digitized, only plats and surveys to be a certain size and made of specific materials. This legislation will update what media is used by surveyors. These three changes are brought together as one bill because they are minor clean-up details that are not controversial.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Anderson** made a motion to send **S 1079** to floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to questions, **Mr. Simila** stated previously used materials have become outdated so new materials are now required for plats and surveys.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Hartgen called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1079** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Rudolph** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1081:

Joe Stegner, University of Idaho (U of I) Special Assistant to the President, introduced **Kent Nelson**, General Counsel, U of I who presented **S 1081** which discusses the self-funded benefits plan for employees at U of I and covers health, vision and dental coverage. They purchase two types of stop loss coverage for this plan. Payments are received for trust contributions and claims are paid from monies in the trust. The trust must have surplus funds. The reserve funds change due to the requirements of the funds. The calculation for this plan has changed and because of this the trust must have a larger reserve than necessary. This legislation will allow the trust surplus to revert to a previous defined calculation. The reserve surplus calculation is only for the post secondary coverage trust fund. With the previous calculation, six million dollars a year in funds are released which would otherwise be tied up in the surplus trust fund. The Department of Insurance does not oppose this legislation to revert to previous calculations.

MOTION:

Rep. Redman made a motion to send **S 1081** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to a question, **Mr. Nelson** stated the credit rating would either stay the same or increase due to freeing up the reserve funds. If there is a cancellation adjustment in the future, the amounts in the reserve of the trust would be analyzed. If the U of I decides to terminate the self-funded trust the employees will be able to transition to other insurance plans within the required time. The unpaid claims liability is defined as a calculation done quarterly, which reports on the plan claim history and the amount of reserves needed. The six million dollars of unrestricted reserve money freed by this change is not labeled as trust reserves. These funds could be used for whatever the University deems appropriate. The reserves are measured at the end of the fiscal year to determine the credit rating of U of I. The University needs to have a total of unrestricted reserves but there cannot be restrictions in how the funds can be spent.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Hartgen called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1081** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Redman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Representative Hartgen
Chair

Heidi McKay
Secretary