

MINUTES  
**SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 05, 2015

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW53

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Rice, Vice Chairman Bayer, Senators Brackett, Patrick, Souza, Lee, Ward-Engelking and Burgoyne

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Den Hartog

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Rice** called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**H 114** **Relating to the Pure Seed Law, Representative Clark Kauffman**, stated this legislation amends the Pure Seed Act by adding the definition of three activities relating to agricultural seeds regulations under Section 22-413: 1) cultivating; 2) producing; and 3) processing: These are among the activities regulated by the Idaho State Department Of Agriculture (ISDA) rather than local units of government. The State's seed industry produces \$5 million annually and grows 70 percent of the hybrid sweet corn seed produced in the world. It ranks among the leading suppliers of alfalfa, bean, Kentucky Bluegrass, carrot, onion, turnip and lettuce seed.

**Senator Souza** asked for an explanation on the application of the changes. Would these requirements only apply to commercial operations? **Representative Kauffman** deferred to Doug Jones, Executive Director for Growers for Biotechnology. **Mr. Jones** stated the Pure Seed Bill is not designed to regulate home gardeners raising their own seed. Unless the type of seed they would raise could cross-pollinate and it was designated by the State to not be grown in a specific region. ISDA designates growing regions for certain crops such as seed potatoes and canola. This bill is designed to prohibit an individual county or city from designating crop growth. A gardener in Canyon County might be asked not to grow a specific crop because it may cross-pollinate with a seed crop of significant commercial value. If a producer acquires a contract to grow a crop such as onion seed, the seed company puts a pin in the map so no other producer would plant onion seed that could cross-pollinate within that designated radius. The bill's language prohibits counties and cities from setting their own seed rules. **Senator Souza** questioned how this bill will impact organic operations. **Mr. Jones** replied that there would be no impact whatsoever to those growers. The producer is growing a commercial variety and the organic gardener is growing an heirloom seed.

**MOTION:** **Senator Patrick** moved to send **H 114** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Vice Chairman Bayer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Burgoyne**, asked to be recorded as voting nay.

**S 1113**

**Relating to the Idaho Beef Council, Senator Brackett**, explained **S 1113** amends Idaho Code §25-2906 by adding Subsection 11, lease, purchase or own personal property or lease real property deemed necessary in the administration of this chapter. The Beef Council (Council) is a state agency that operates with a single objective which is to increase consumer demand for beef. The Council is an eight member board which was created in 1967 to support Idaho's \$1.4 billion beef cattle industry. The Council is funded by the check off program which is the \$1.50 per head assessment on the sale of cattle in the State. When the original legislation was crafted Subsection 11 was missing. It was recently discovered that the Council had an omission of power that grants it the ability to lease, purchase or own personal property or lease real property. Many of the other commissions operating in the State have this or similar powers. **S 1113** simply updates the Idaho Code to allow the Council to efficiently and effectively operate as it was intended.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Burgoyne** moved to send **S 1113** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTE APPROVAL:**

**Senator Patrick** moved to approve the Minutes of February 12, 2015. **Senator Brackett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTE APPROVAL:**

**Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to approve the Minutes of February 17, 2015. **Senator Burgoyne** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business, **Chairman Rice** adjourned the meeting at 8:19 a.m.

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Senator Rice  
Chair

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Carol Deis  
Secretary