

MINUTES
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2015
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room C310
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Cameron, Vice Chairman Keough, Senators Mortimer, Bair, Nuxoll, Johnson, Thayn, Guthrie, Schmidt, Lacey
ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None
CONVENED: Senator Cameron called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.
PASSED THE GAVEL: Senator Cameron passed the gavel to Vice Chair Keough.

S 1152: Relating to State Agency Receipt of Federal Funds; revise reporting requirements by state agencies that receive federal funds; provide an exception for higher educational institutions

Senator Cameron explained that a similar bill (S1122) was brought to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee for print and was referred to the Senate Finance Committee for a hearing. After some discussion it was determined to hold that bill since it could not be amended, This new bill revised reporting requirements by adding language to provide an exception for higher educational institutions.

Wayne Hoffman, President of the Idaho Freedom Foundation, said e-rate information was captured as part of the Department of Administration's response to the Governor's Executive Order 2014-03. This new legislation should help capture that information.

MOTION: Senator Mortimer moved to send **S 1152** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Nuxoll** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 23875 **Senator Cameron** introduced **RS 23875** and explained the proposed legislation relating to the Industrial Commission would reduce the premium tax rate for workers compensation insurance premiums from 2.5% to 2.0%. He further explained that during the economic downturn when JFAC was looking for all available sources to help balance the budget, the Committee became aware of a large balance in the Industrial Commission reserve account. The Industrial Commission generates between \$10 to \$12 million in revenue annually and has an appropriation as well as expenses in that same range. The operating capital and long-term investments balance currently amounts to almost \$15 million. In 2011 the Industrial Commission voluntarily brought legislation to reduce the premium tax from 2.5% to 2.0% with a two-year sunset clause; in 2013 the Commission extended the sunset clause another two years to 2015. However this year they did not propose the extension. This RS would permanently reduce the premium tax rate for workers compensation insurance premiums from 2.5% to 2.0%. **Cameron** provided Committee members with a two-page Industrial Administration Fund Cash Analysis prepared by Keith Bybee, Principal Budget and Policy Analyst for the Legislative Services Office; a copy is attached. **Cameron** requested the Committee print the bill which will then be referred to the appropriate committee for a hearing.

MOTION: **Senator Mortimer** moved to send **RS 23875** to print. **Senator Nuxoll** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chair Keough passed the gavel to Chairman Cameron.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business to come before the Committee, Senator Cameron adjourned the meeting at 8:20 A.M.

Senator Cameron
Chair

Peggy Moyer
Secretary

Senator Keough, Vice Chair