

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 13, 2017
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW05
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Hartgen, Vice Chairman Anderson, Representatives Harris, Holtzclaw, Horman, Packer, Redman, Kingsley, Moon, Syme, Scott, King, Chew
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Harris
- GUESTS:** Georgia Smith, Michael Kalm, Elizabeth Knox and Larry Ingram, Department of Labor; Roger Seiber, Capitol West
- Chairman Hartgen** called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Horman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2017, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 25088:** **Vice Chairman Anderson** presented **RS 25088**, proposed legislation from the 2016 State Procurement Laws Interim Committee that addresses multiple awards, when the Division of Purchasing wants to buy items from multiple vendors.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Redman** made a motion to introduce **RS 25088**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 25090:** **Vice Chairman Anderson** presented **RS 25090**, proposed legislation to handle void state contracts and how vendors who acted in good faith should be treated.
- In response to Committee questions, **Vice Chairman Anderson** noted all three RSs he was presenting were unanimously passed by the State Procurement Laws Interim Committee and all committee members are listed as co-sponsors.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Horman** made a motion to introduce **RS 25090**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 25111:** **Vice Chairman Anderson** presented **RS 25111**, a Concurrent Resolution to appoint another State Procurement Laws Interim Committee to continue studying issues such as: information technology procurement, administrative and judicial review of procurement challenges and appeals, and the applicability of the State Procurement Act to certain persons and entities.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Packer** made a motion to introduce **RS 25111**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 25275:** **Keith Simila**, Executive Director, Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors, presented **RS 25275**, proposed legislation that clarifies that unlicensed practice of engineering or land surveying is a violation of Idaho statute. This new RS addresses concerns raised during the hearing for **H 84**, by specifically exempting individuals who are involved in providing expert testimony from violating the statute.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Moon** made a motion to introduce **RS 25275**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 24844C1: **Georgia Smith**, Deputy Director of Communications and Research, Department of Labor, presented **RS 24844C1**, proposed legislation which would give the Department statutory authority to perform FBI fingerprint-based background checks on employees, prospective contractors, subcontractors, interns, volunteers and applicants for employment. The FBI requires state agencies to have the statutory authority to conduct these checks on employees with access to Federal Tax Information (FTI) and gave agencies a deadline of fall 2017. The fiscal impact, which includes equipment and background checks on the 26 existing employees with access to FTI, is \$10,910.

In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Smith** stated the benefits of the Department having its own machine to use include the machine's direct, secure connection to the FBI, and the time and cost saved by being able to perform checks without sending employees or applicants to the State Police. Ms. Smith anticipates as the demand for data security grows, the federal government will require additional employees to undergo background checks beyond the 26 of whom it is currently required.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Anderson** made a motion to introduce **RS 24844C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Moon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

Ken Edmunds, Director, Department of Labor, presented to the Committee on the current challenges facing Idaho's workforce and the status of Department programs. Mr. Edmunds laid out the four main challenges as: shortage of skilled workforce, with a projected worker gap of 49,000 by 2024; college and career readiness; increased industry expectations for training and the increasing use of technology. He noted the Department of Labor is funded through grants that come almost exclusively from the federal government and the Department is currently emphasizing workforce development. There is an Unemployment Insurance Tax Relief Bill before the legislature this session which would provide \$115 million in savings over three years by adjusting the risk multiplier.

In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Edmunds** elaborated on additional Department programs including Apprenticeship Idaho, Rural Micro Grants and discussed the Workforce Development Task Force, which was appointed by the Governor and will deliver recommendations by July 1, 2017.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 pm.

Representative Hartgen
Chair

Erica McGinnis
Secretary