

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 29, 2018

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:** Representative Harris

GUESTS: Joe Malone; Michael Johnson, IDOL; Josh McKenna, IDOL; Marty Durand, Building Trades; Jay Shaw, Administrative Rules

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

DOCKET NO. 09-0130-1701: **Michael Johnson**, Unemployment Insurance Division Administrator, Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL), presented **Docket No. 09-0130-1701**. The adoption of the pending rule is necessary to clarify the misconception that leads unemployment insurance claimants to believe that in order to file for unemployment insurance benefits they must call a Boise telephone number. The pending rule provides the department greater flexibility in the event the state needs to relocate its claims processing center for budgetary reasons or due to a natural disaster such as fire or flooding.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Johnson**, clarified that a claimant can go into any of the local offices to receive direction in processing their unemployment claim or ask for assistance via phone, email or a click-to-chat option with a claim specialist located in a centralized location. He also claimed there is no intent to move the current claim center from its current location.

MOTION: **Rep. Syme** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 09-0130-1701**. **Motion carried by voice vote. Vice Chairman Anderson** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

Marty Durand, Legislative Council, Idaho Building Trades Council presented information regarding apprenticeships. An apprenticeship is a structured form of paid training that combines on-the-job learning with classroom instruction. Apprenticeships prepare workers for jobs while meeting employers' needs for a highly-skilled workforce.

The benefits of the apprentice programs under the Building Trades Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees (JATC) are:

- Labor/Industry partnership for oversight and to ensure that the training meets the highest standards and the changing needs of industry.
- Entirely self-funded and require no tax dollars.
- Successful apprentices pay nothing for the training. No fee for tuition, books or tools.
- Lead to nationally recognized credential (journeyman license) and a 100% guarantee to employers of full qualification.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Durand**, explained that new facilities are being built for expansion needs; training can begin in high school, but there is no on-the-job training for individuals under the age of 18 due to the danger of the training. Credit for time in the high school classroom can be given, but it is primarily for career exploration. College training is not the same as an apprenticeship, because there is no on-the-job training and the colleges are not registered. Annual and biannual continuing education is required. Bottlenecks occur in training because there are not enough apprenticeship programs available.

Jason Hudson, Director, Idaho Workers Opportunity Network presented that a Registered Apprenticeship involves a rigorous curriculum and training standards, approved by the USDOL Office of Apprenticeship. He explained the different categories or apprenticeships; the advantages of apprenticeships; current efforts to expand apprenticeships in Idaho and the need for more Registered Apprentices in Idaho. He offered options for expanding and supporting Registered Apprenticeships, such as, offering tax incentives to employers for utilizing Registered Apprentices; giving contractors preference on public contracting if they utilize Registered Apprentices; and mandating use of Registered Apprentices on public jobs.

In response to committee questions and comments, **Mr. Hudson**, explained that apprentices have an opportunity to challenge the programs regarding their knowledge, skills and abilities and move on accordingly within the apprenticeship program. Four-year college degrees are not needed. Those degrees were used as screening tools in the past. Many Registered Apprenticeship programs are not affiliated with unions and cannot be compelled to do so since Idaho is a Right-to-Work State.

Chairman Hartgen thanked both **Marty Durand** and **Jason Hudson** for their presentations and suggested that they bring a bill to the legislature in the hope for real progress in the area of apprenticeships.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Representative Hartgen
Chair

Shellie Coates
Secretary