

MINUTES
SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2018

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Patrick, Vice Chairman Guthrie, Senators Martin, Lakey, Thayn, Souza, Potts, Ward-Engelking, and Burgoyne

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

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 Patrick** called the meeting of the Commerce and Human Resources Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to approve the Minutes of January 30, 2018. **Senator Martin** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT & HEARING: The appointment of Tom Shores of Boise, Idaho, to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange (Exchange) Board - Your Health Idaho (YHI), term commencing April 10, 2017 and expiring April 10, 2021. **Mr. Shores** reported he has been very active in making sure that every agent is prepared to provide the people of Idaho the very best information about how the Exchange is working and what is best.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Thayn** asked Mr. Shores what were the challenges and the most enjoyable aspects of being on the Exchange Board. **Mr. Shores** stated he disliked dealing with the federal government. He enjoyed the camaraderie of the Exchange Board when they meet to come up with a solution to a problem.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Martin** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Tom Shores to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board - Your Health Idaho, to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT & HEARING: The appointment of Stephen Weeg, of Pocatello, Idaho, to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board (Exchange) - Your Health Idaho (YHI), term commencing April 10, 2017 and expiring April 10, 2021. **Mr. Weeg** commented he has served as Chairman of the Exchange Board since 2013. He remarked the Exchange Board is the most fully-engaged board he has ever worked with.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Souza** commented, that in 2002, Mr. Weeg was very involved in exploring the possibilities of utilizing telehealth. She asked Mr. Weeg how he saw TeleHealth today and in the future. **Mr. Weeg** remarked that TeleHealth is fundamental as to how health care is delivered, especially in rural communities. TeleHealth makes it possible to have face time with larger hospitals, which is increasingly important. Access is critical to have a resource that can be built upon.

Vice Chairman Guthrie queried what the Exchange would have to do to adapt to changes in health care today. **Mr. Weeg** remarked the Exchange focuses on what can be done now. The Exchange Board may look at other ways to help people as they access coverage. If insurance companies decide through an executive order to sell insurance, the Exchange can do that. The Exchange

Board has to keep an open mind in watching the evolving landscape to help Idaho citizens. YHI is financially solvent and self-sustaining.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Vice Chairman Guthrie** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Stephen Weeg to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange - Your Health Idaho, to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Thayne** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1252 **Relating to Engineers & Surveyors.** **Keith Simila**, Executive Director, Idaho Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (IPELS), stated the purpose of the amendment was to reduce barriers to licensure by repealing the requirement for additional education upon multiple examination failures and decoupling the requirement for obtaining four years of experience prior to assignment to the professional licensure examinations. **Mr. Simila** commented there would be no fiscal impact to the General Fund or the dedicated fund of the agency; removing the requirements would not increase or decrease the cost of processing applications.

MOTION: **Senator Potts** moved to send **S 1252** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Vice Chairman Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Patrick** announced there was a rule the Committee may want to reject, since the rule was rejected in the House. He mentioned the agency requested the rule be rejected. The topic will be discussed individually at a later time.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Patrick** adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Senator Patrick
Chair

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary