

MINUTES
SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 15, 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 1:32 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Burgoyne** moved to approve the Minutes of February 6, 2018. **Senator Lakey** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

HONORING OF PAGE & INTRODUCTION OF NEW PAGE: **Chairman Patrick** honored Page Shelby Hale. He asked her to tell the Committee what she learned. **Ms. Hale** stated being a page was a great experience and she thanked the Committee. She commented she wanted to major in political science and teach.

Chairman Patrick introduced the new page, Micah Mensing and asked him to tell the Committee a little about himself. **Mr. Mensing** told the Committee he was a senior at Albion High School. He mentioned he worked on a beet farm in the summer. He was looking forward to being a page.

RS 26159 **Relating to Prohibited Practices of Collection Agencies. Senator Potts** provided background information and the rationale for this proposed legislation. He noted the purpose is to provide that a collection agency licensee or collection agency or its agent may collect interest or incidental fees, charges, or expenses if they are expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt. The proposed legislation would also make technical corrections.

MOTION: **Senator Thayn** asked for unanimous consent to send **RS 26159** to a privileged committee for printing. **Chairman Patrick** asked if there was opposition to the unanimous consent request. There were no objections.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT AND HEARING: The appointment of Fernando Veloz of Meridian, Idaho, to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange (Exchange) Board - Your Health Idaho (YHI), to serve a term commencing April 10, 2017 and expiring April 10, 2021. Mr. Veloz was interviewed via a conference call. **Mr. Veloz** stated he is a health care professional who would like to continue oversight of marketing and the financial goals of YHI in his capacity as board member and licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Currently, **Mr. Veloz** is Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for Administrative Services, Inc. in Meridian, Idaho.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Senator Lakey** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Fernando Veloz to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange (Exchange) Board - Your Health Idaho (YHI) to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Martin** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT AND HEARING: The gubernatorial appointment of Dr. John Livingston of Boise, Idaho, to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange (Exchange) Board - Your Health Idaho (YHI) to serve a term commencing April 10, 2017 and expiring April 10, 2021. **Dr. Livingston** stated he was past president of the Idaho chapter of the American College of Surgeons and president of the medical staff of Treasure Valley Hospital. **Dr. Livingston** mentioned he represents the interests of patients and physicians on the Exchange Board.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Souza** remarked she appreciated Dr. Livingston's attitude about varying insurance products. She queried if he could envision other alternatives, such as comparative pricing lists, that were non-Affordable Care Act (ACA) compliant, on the Exchange. **Dr. Livingston** replied that some states employ that kind of tool, but it is a cumbersome process. He stated he envisions selling alternative insurance policies where the Exchange keeps local control, but does not have to conform to the ACA.

Chairman Patrick wondered about Dr. Livingston being a medical advisor to the Idaho Freedom Foundation (Foundation). **Dr. Livingston** remarked he was asked to be on the Foundation Board, but declined. He advises the Foundation on medical issues, is unpaid, and has disclosed this to the YHI Board.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Senator Thayne** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Dr. John Livingston to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange (Exchange) Board - Your Health Idaho (YHI) to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Vice Chairman Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT AND HEARING: The gubernatorial appointment of Karen Vauk of Boise, Idaho, to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange (Exchange) Board - Your Health Idaho (YHI) to serve a term commencing April 10, 2017 and expiring April 10, 2021. **Ms. Vauk** stated she works at the Idaho Foodbank where she is President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). She works with the uninsured and underinsured at the Foodbank. She explained she represents consumer interests on the Exchange Board. **Ms. Vauk** indicated she has served on various boards, including St. Luke's Board of Directors, the Idaho State Board of Education as Assessment and Accountability Commissioner, and the Idaho Healthcare Coalition. **Ms. Vauk** commented she has learned more about health insurance than she ever imagined. She stated she is very proud of the Exchange. The Exchange Board has worked through difficult issues and has maintained a focus on the needs of people in the State of Idaho.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Karen Vauk to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange (Exchange) Board - Your Health Idaho (YHI) to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Martin** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT AND HEARING: The gubernatorial appointment of Mark Holubar of Idaho Falls, Idaho, to the Idaho Personnel Commission (Commission) to serve a term commencing July 1, 2017 and expiring July 1, 2023. **Mr. Holubar** remarked he was looking forward to serving the citizens of Idaho to ensure that State employees receive due process in employment actions. He mentioned he has served on the Board of Trustees for the Museum of Idaho and on the Idaho Workforce Development Council. **Mr. Holubar** mentioned he was from Wisconsin and has worked for various companies in other states in the field of human resources. He has experience in employee relationships, leadership, and talent management.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Souza** queried if there was anything on the Commission that surprised Mr. Holubar. **Mr. Holubar** remarked the Commission was similar to the corporate world in analyzing acceptable job performance and due process.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Senator Potts** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Mark Holubar to the Idaho Personnel Commission to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Martin** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 348 **Relating to the State Board of Acupuncture.** **Tana Cory**, Bureau Chief, Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses (BOL) stated this proposed legislation increases the honorarium paid to members of the Idaho State Board of Acupuncture (BOA) for each day spent in the actual performance of their duties from \$50 to \$100. There is no impact to the General Fund. The impact of the BOL's dedicated fund would be approximately \$1,000 a year based upon five members meeting four times per year.

DISCUSSION: A discussion ensued with **Senator Martin**, **Senator Potts**, and **Ms. Cory** about the BOL Board decision to increase the honorarium.

MOTION: **Senator Martin** moved to send **H 348** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 349 **Relating to Occupational Therapy.** **Tana Cory**, Bureau Chief, Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses (BOL), stated this proposed legislation amends Idaho Code § 54-3702 to clarify language and remove obsolete terms related to qualifications for board appointments from the Occupational Therapy Practice Act (OTPA). It clarifies that the definitions of "Graduate Occupational Therapy Assistant," "Occupational Therapist," and "Occupational Therapy Assistant" refer to persons regulated by Idaho Code and also removes an obsolete provision pertaining to endorsement licensure.

There is no impact to the General Fund, because the BOL operates solely on dedicated funds. There is no impact to the BOL's dedicated fund since the proposed legislation will not alter the number of BOL Board meetings held each year or require more services be provided to the BOL.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Guthrie** moved to send **H 349** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Thayne** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 350 **Relating to Counselors and Therapists.** **Tana Cory**, Bureau Chief, Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses (BOL), introduced Piper Field and Sandy Sweesy, Idaho Licensing Board of Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists. **Piper Field** stated this proposed legislation would move educational curricula requirements for licensed marriage and family therapists, and associate therapists, from statute and allow the BOL to establish these requirements in rule. This is consistent with the approach for licensed counselors in the rest of Idaho Code. This would also allow the BOL Board to be more responsive to changes in curriculum standards of accrediting bodies for the educational institutions in Idaho and would facilitate the portability of licenses between Idaho and other states.

There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund because the BOL Board operates solely on dedicated funds. There is no impact to the BOL's dedicated fund since the proposed legislation will not alter the number of board meetings held each year or require more services be provided to the Idaho Licensing Board of Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists.

TESTIMONY: **Roberta Crockett** testified in support of the bill. (Attachment 1). She commented the improvements will make it easier for people to understand how to become licensed.

Krysteena Stephens testified in support of the bill. (Attachment 2). She shared her story of trying to transfer her license to Idaho from another state.

MOTION: **Senator Martin** moved to send **H 350** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Bobbi-Jo Meuleman**, Director, Idaho Department of Commerce (DOC), provided an update on the accomplishments of the Idaho Chamber of Commerce. (Attachment 3). The goal of the DOC is to foster a business-friendly environment to aid in job creation, support existing companies, strengthen communities, and market Idaho through tourism and trade.

Ms. Meuleman remarked that Idaho's existing businesses account for over 80 percent of jobs in the State. The Business Retention and Expansion Team focuses on these existing businesses to ensure the DOC is providing the businesses with the support they need.

Ms. Meuleman reported Idaho's continued growth, business-friendly environment, low cost of doing business, and access to leadership have all contributed to the steady flow of business attraction. Site visits from companies considering Idaho as a potential location for an expansion or relocation have increased steadily over the past five years. Site visits were down slightly from 2016, but overall, it was still a very good year for business attractions in the State.

Ms. Meuleman stated the most successful tool granted by the Idaho Legislature in 2014 was the Idaho Tax Reimbursement Incentive (TRI). As of today, 43 projects have been approved. Of those 43 projects, 22 were utilized by existing Idaho businesses for expansions. Of the 43 projects, 24 have been in rural areas. To date, 1,680 jobs have been created as a result of the TRI, with an average wage of \$59,000 with over 6,000 new jobs projected for all approved projects.

Ms. Meuleman commented, that through the Community Development Block Grant (CDVG), dollars are used to fund project throughout the State that benefit low-to moderate-income persons. Projects include infrastructure updates such as water and sewer, downtown revitalization, senior centers, and parks.

Ms. Meuleman explained the DOC tracks data for international exports. The DOC collaborates with the Idaho Department of Agriculture to promote Idaho products and jointly manage trade offices in Mexico, Taiwan, and China.

Ms. Meuleman noted the Idaho Global Entrepreneurial Mission (IGEM) grants funds to university researchers and business experts who partner together to bring viable technologies to the market.

Ms. Meuleman advised tourism is Idaho's third-largest industry and is continuing to see significant growth. In fiscal year (FY) 2017, the State lodging and convention tax collection increased by over 12 percent - topping over \$11 million. The travel and tourism industry employs over 57,000 employees statewide and contributes over \$1.3 billion of the State's gross domestic product (GDP). Tourism is a key economic driver in the State and the leading industry in many rural areas.

Ms. Meulman indicated the DOC anticipates growth to continue at 10 percent annually, particularly with the addition of over 1,800 proposed hotel properties

statewide and the inclusion of the vacation rental properties, such as Airbnb in lodging tax collections.

DISCUSSION: **Ms. Meuleman** and **Senator Potts** discussed the reason behind the decline in exports of semiconductors, mining products, and transportation equipment. **Ms. Meuleman** indicated that Micron, the leading exporter, was not making as many products in Idaho.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Patrick** adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

Senator Patrick
Chair

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary