

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 16, 2018

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Siddoway, Vice Chairman Hagedorn, Senators Hill, Winder, Lodge, Vick, Anthon, and Stennett

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Buckner-Webb

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 Siddoway** called the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m. with a quorum present.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **The appointment of Irving Littman to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board (EFIB).**

Chairman Siddoway welcomed Irving Littman to the Committee. He requested information about the Board and Mr. Littman's responsibilities on the EFIB

Irving Littman stated he was appointed to the EFIB last spring; he expressed his pleasure at the opportunity to be involved. The EFIB is connected to the Idaho State Land Board of Commissioners and oversees the management of the monetary assets related to the endowment fund. **Mr. Littman** explained that he came to Idaho 50 years ago, worked at Boise Cascade Corporation (BCC), and retired as Vice President and Treasurer. He has been involved in finance and related activities throughout his career. He was raised in Colorado and has a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Colorado, College of Engineering and Applied Science. He also has a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago, Booth School of Business.

Senator Vick asked for information on the Cuban Electric Company. **Mr. Littman** answered in 1969, BCC merged with Electric Bond and Share Company; the name was changed to EBASCO Industries, Inc.(EBASCO). EBASCO was once the largest utility holding company in the world. They created Idaho Power and others. EBASCO was also the holder of a majority of electrical power operating assets in Latin America; the biggest was Cuban Electric Company until it was nationalized in 1960. Cuban Electric Company remained on EBASCO's books when EBASCO became a subsidiary of BCC. **Mr. Littman** stated he continues to serve as a Director of the Cuban Electric Company, which is currently a subsidiary of Office Depot. There is a claim against the government of Cuba for expropriation and some monetary assets are held in trust.

Vice Chairman Hagedorn thanked Mr. Littman for his service. **Vice Chairman Hagedorn** inquired as to Mr. Littman's view of what he has learned about the EFIB and areas that could be improved. **Mr. Littman** responded, in modern business, there is no such thing as not being able to improve. Earlier this week, the EFIB altered the allocation within the endowment fund. In recent years, the performance of the endowment fund has been among the best in the country. The EFIB is one of very few long-term investors. There will be exposure to some volatility, but over the long-term, value will be added for the beneficiaries.

Chairman Siddoway inquired if Mr. Littman sought this appointment or was he solicited. **Mr. Littman** answered that he was solicited but expressed his interest to be solicited.

Chairman Siddoway thanked Mr. Littman for appearing before the Committee and advised him that the vote would occur at the next scheduled meeting.

S 1274

RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS to designate a custodian, define types of information not exempt from release, and exempt important security information from disclosure.

Senator Mary Souza, District 4, stated **S 1274** makes three small but important changes to the current public records request code. The changes include:

- the designation of a custodian within each agency or body for public records requests;
- an update of the types of compensation information available upon public request (Attachment 1-p.9); and
- the addition of social security numbers and driver's license numbers to information exempt from public disclosure.

Senator Souza stated that one of the counties asked if there could be a designated custodian in each department. **Senator Souza** said the question was referred to the Office of the Attorney General whose response indicated that the language does not preclude a department from designating its own public records request custodian. This is according to the sections in Idaho Code where a county, city, or any agency is defined. **Senator Souza** stated her belief that those departments are agencies of the city or county and, thus, each department can have a custodian.

Vice Chairman Hagedorn referred to page 7, line 45 of the bill. He said it appears the agencies are limited to one person as a designated custodian. **Senator Souza** responded that it does not preclude an agency from having more than one; it does require them to have at least one. They can also designate one for each department, along with alternates.

Senator Hill noted that in subsection (3) on the first page, a definition section has been written as a directive. He addressed the specifics related to the wording. **Senator Hill** assured Senator Souza she was not to blame, it was the way the bill was drafted. **Senator Souza** stated she would agree to sending the bill to the 14th Order to make the appropriate changes. **Senator Hill** outlined three options: 1.) send the bill to the amending order; 2.) hold the bill in Committee until a date certain; or 3.) send the bill to the floor with a do pass recommendation. **Senator Hill** said he probably could not support number three, but not because of the intent of the bill.

MOTION:

Senator Hill moved to send **S 1274** to the 14th Order for possible amendment. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion.

Senator Anthon thanked Senator Souza for this legislation. He said he practices as a city attorney. It is common sense to exclude social security numbers and driver's license numbers from a public records request. He applauded this bill.

TESTIMONY:

Skip Smyser identified himself as an attorney and lobbyist in Boise representing the Idaho Press Club in support of this legislation. He stated **S 1274** adds to the openness and transparency in government and explained he views this as good legislation. **Mr. Smyser** suggested they may have some appropriate language that could apply to the definition segment of the bill in question.

Motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES
APPROVAL:**

Senator Vick moved to approve the Minutes of January 29, 2018. **Senator Lodge** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Lodge moved to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2018. **Vice Chairman Hagedorn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PAGE
GRADUATION:**

THE GRADUATION of Page Lyndi Loveland.

Chairman Siddoway called Ms. Loveland to the podium. **Lyndi Loveland** introduced herself as a Senate Page for the First Half of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature. **Chairman Siddoway** asked Ms. Loveland to tell the Committee of her experience; what she learned while at the Capitol, as well as what was the most surprising, and what disappointed her.

Ms. Loveland responded that she observed the atmosphere reflected a great deal of humility. She referred to the interaction between the Democrats and Republicans and how well everyone gets along. The legislators and staff were very nice to the pages and to one another. Everyone was considerate and patient while the pages learned their responsibilities. She expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to see how Idaho politics work. **Ms. Loveland** explained the difference between what she thought would happen and really happened. She stated she had learned much from her experience. The most disappointing thing was that she had to leave.

Chairman Siddoway asked what her plans were for the near future. **Ms. Loveland** answered that she has completely changed her plans over the last six weeks. She will be doing some college tours in northern Idaho before making her final decision about where she wants to go to school. She plans to work in Alaska during the summer. Upon her return, she will start CNA classes.

Chairman Siddoway presented Ms. Loveland with a gift from the Committee as well as a letter signed by the Committee members. He also provided a letter of recommendation signed by Chairman Siddoway. **Chairman Siddoway** thanked Ms. Loveland for her service to the Committee.

Senator Winder asked what Ms. Loveland would be doing in Ketchikan. **Ms. Loveland** responded that she would be doing housekeeping or office work at a resort.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business, Chairman Siddoway adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Senator Siddoway
Chair

Twyla Melton
Secretary