

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 17, 2020

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Harris, Senators Hill, Winder, Vick, Anthon, Souza, Stennett, and Buckner-Webb

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: **Chairwoman Lodge** called the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Chairwoman Lodge introduced President Pro-Tempore Hill's grandson, Alexander. She complimented the 4-H youth as a group.

PAGE INTRODUCTION: **Chairwoman Lodge** introduced Emily Blattner, page for the second half of the session. **Ms. Blattner**, Kuna High School, said she learned of the Page program in the 6th grade when she visited the Capitol, and wants to learn more about state government while serving as a page. **Ms. Blattner** stated that her goals are to earn a degree in agricultural communications and science, complete a law degree, intern in Washington D. C., and then become a lawyer or lobbyist.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **THE GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT** of Nikeela Black-Abrams to the Idaho State Racing Commission (Commission) by telephone interview.

Nikeela Black-Abrams explained she would like to be on the Commission because, having been a jockey prior to being paralyzed in an accident and currently breeding and running race horses, she would like to help save this industry in Idaho.

Senator Vick inquired what Ms. Black-Abrams' specific ideas are to accomplish this goal. **Ms. Black-Abrams** replied the issues lie with a lack of unification in how to fund horse racing. She would like to bring stakeholders together to reach their common goal.

Chairman Lodge, Senator Stennett, and Ms. Black-Abrams discussed Ms. Black-Abrams' recovery and her being able to ride again. **Senator Stennett** asked Ms. Black-Abrams if she did equine therapy. **Ms. Black-Abrams** stated she had not, but would be interested in that type of therapy.

Senator Anthon thanked Ms. Black-Abrams for her willingness to serve, and stated he felt she was uniquely qualified to serve on the Commission.

Chairman Lodge announced that voting on Ms. Black-Abrams' nomination would take place at the Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2020.

RS 27531C1 **RELATING TO INDUSTRIAL HEMP** to add a new chapter, 17, to Title 22, amends Title 37 including Schedule 1, and adds a new section to provide for the transportation of industrial hemp.

Senator Lee, District 9, informed the Committee that the federal farm bill was passed in 2018, but nothing has been done in Idaho regarding the transportation of industrial hemp across state lines. She noted that the Governor has issued an Executive Order to deal with our responsibility in this matter. **Senator Lee** stated that **RS 27531C1** would give clarification to help transporters and growers, and give specific direction to develop a state plan. **Senator Lee** explained the RS in detail including what it would accomplish.

MOTION: **Senator Winder** moved to send **RS 27531C1** to print. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Hill** thanked Senator Lee for her work. Referring to lines 11-14, he asked if a federal or state license was required. He inquired if a document agreeing to an inspection had to be signed when applying for a license. **Senator Lee** stated the language in lines 11-13 was set out in the Executive Order, and that each state can determine what the paperwork looks like. She explained that currently, it is difficult for any transporter to meet the requirements of the Executive Order, and that **RS 27531C1** would clarify the ambiguities.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to send **RS 27531C1** to print carried by **voice vote**.

RS 27716 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** to appoint an interim committee to study property taxes. **Senator Rice**, District 10, explained the resolution is for an interim committee to analyze the property tax situation throughout the state, considering the differences from one area to another.

MOTION: **Senator Vick** moved to send **RS 27716** to print. **Senator Hill** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Stennett** asked what prompted this request and if it would be better to wait for this committee to work before passing legislation or to put a plan in place. **Senator Rice** replied the problem is broader than what has been proposed. The issue is more complicated and needs further analysis.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to send **RS 27716** to print carried by **voice vote**.

H 365 **RELATING TO THE LEGISLATURE** to provide correct terminology and remove a provision.

Representative Monks, District 22, explained that a State Department of Disaster Relief and Civil Relief existed several years ago, then the name was changed to the Bureau of Homeland Security (Bureau), not to be mixed up with the federal Department of Homeland Security (Department). Due to confusion between the Bureau and the Department, the name has now been changed to the Idaho Office of Emergency Management. **H 365** reflects that name change. The other purpose of the bill is to eliminate outdated and unused language.

Senator Stennett asked what happened to civil defense. **Representative Monks** replied that only the name was changed. The scope and functions remained the same.

MOTION: **Senator Souza** moved to send **H 365** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 326 **RELATING TO VETERANS** to eliminate obsolete and unnecessary restrictions.

Director Marv Hagedorn, Division of Veterans Affairs, stated **H 326** will amend a section of Idaho code by changing a service day requirement of "180" days to "90" days to ensure the definition of "veteran" is consistent throughout statute.

MOTION: **Senator Stennett** moved to send **H 326** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1309 **RELATING TO ELECTIONS** relating to emergency absentee ballots.

Chad Houck, Chief Deputy, Office of the Secretary of State (SOS), explained that the 96-hour time frame to register for an absentee ballot eliminates some voters. **S 1309** allows for a process that will give the SOS authority to establish a voting precinct in a hospital in case a voter was in an emergency situation.

MOTION: **Senator Souza** moved to send **S 1309** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Vick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1310 **RELATING TO RECALL ELECTIONS** to revise provisions within the existing elections statutes.

Chad Houck, Chief Deputy, Office of the Secretary of State, stated that **S 1310** revises processes for ordering a recall election. He stated that existing statute requires four to five people to process any request to order a recall election. This bill will consolidate all recalls to be handled by the county clerk. The question arose as to who would order the recall. **Mr. Houck** explained that **S 1310** alleviates the potential for conflict of interest by identifying specific individuals who would have the responsibility to order the recall. Also, the bill carries an emergency clause.

MOTION: **Senator Stennett** moved to send **S 1310** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNMENT: There being nor further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Senator Lodge, Chair

Twyla Melton, Secretary

Carol Cornwall, Assistant Secretary