

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 21, 2020

TIME: 8:00 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 meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

HCR 35 **STATING THE FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE** Idaho Women's Suffrage Day. **Representative Nilsson Troy**, District 5, presented **HCR 35**, a House Concurrent Resolution recognizing August 26, 2020 as Idaho Women's Suffrage Day. She said that this is a day celebrating the history of Idaho's role in the women's suffrage movement and commemorating the anniversary of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

MOTION: **Senator Buckner-Webb** moved to send **HCR 35** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Hill** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 27744 **RELATING TO THE IDAHO MEDAL OF HONOR** to streamline the process to recognize Idaho's first responders. **Senator Cheatham**, District 3, presented **RS 27744** which establishes the Idaho Law Enforcement, Firefighting, and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Providers Medal of Honor Commission (Commission). This legislation is to recognize those officers, firefighters and EMS providers who were killed or seriously injured in the line of duty. It will streamline the process for selecting the recipients to be awarded the Idaho Medal of Honor. The bill amends Idaho Code §§ 67-8801 to 67-8806, and adds §§ 67-8807 and 67-8808.

MOTION: **Senator Vick** moved to send **RS 27744** to print. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Stennett**, pointing to page 2, line 5, asked if "latter of expiration" should read "letter of expiration." **Senator Cheatham** said it might be a misspelling, and yielded to Representative Jake Ellis, District 15, for clarification. **Representative Ellis** said this language was brought by the Commission and approved by consensus. He said the intention was that "latter" means "whichever date" of expiration. **Senator Winder** reread the sentence and said that it was correct as written.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to send **RS 27744** to print carried by **voice vote**.

RS 27719 **UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST** from the Health and Welfare Committee regarding hospitals certified by Centers for Medical Services.

MOTION: **Senator Hill** moved to send **RS 27719** to print. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 327 **RELATING TO VETERANS** to amend a title.

Representative Bill Goesling, District 5, presented **H 327** which amends the current heading of Title 65, Idaho Code to reflect a broader range of individuals. This changes the current heading from "Soldiers and Sailors" to "Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Dependents." He said this legislation only changes the heading, there is no financial impact on the General Fund or any other State or local funds or expenditures.

Senator Hill asked if there are provisions in Title 65, Idaho Code, that currently apply to spouses. **Vice Chairman Harris** responded that there are provisions.

MOTION: **Senator Stennett** moved to send **H 327** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1267 **RELATING TO DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** to allow certain areas of the state to remain on Daylight Saving Time.

Senator Vick presented **S 1267** and said this bill is to change those political subdivisions that are in the Pacific time zone in Idaho to match the time in the State of Washington. He said this legislation may seem familiar because he sponsored a resolution that encouraged his area to make this change and he encouraged Washington to make the change to daylight saving time (DST) year-round.

Senator Vick said he knew Washington was considering this change, so he began working with legislators in both Washington and Oregon on this issue. In 2019, both Washington and Oregon legislatures passed bills to move their states to DST year-round. Washington's bill is contingent on Oregon, and Oregon's bill is contingent on Washington and California. He said in the spirit of cooperation, **S 1267** is contingent on Washington.

Senator Vick said with the number of commuters that travel back and forth daily between Spokane, Washington, and Kootenai County, Idaho, if Washington moves to DST, it would be very difficult to be in different time zones and conduct business. He emphasized that it was imperative that Idaho follow suit. **Senator Vick** said he is looking forward to discussing this issue with Congressman Fulcher because this change will only happen if Congress approves it. Right now, a state can move to standard time on its own, but requires the permission of Congress to move to DST.

DISCUSSION: Responding to Senator Winder's question, **Senator Vick** clarified how the time change would affect Northern Idaho and the rest of the state. He said if northern Idaho went on Pacific DST year-round, there would be a one-hour difference when the rest of Idaho was on DST. During the rest of the year they would all be on the same time.

MOTION: **Senator Hill** moved to send **S 1267** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**

HCR 31 **STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE** to recognize nuclear energy as a carbon free contributor to the nation's energy.

Representative Ehardt presented **HCR 31**, a House Concurrent Resolution to recognize nuclear energy as a carbon free contributor to the nation's energy. She said the Idaho National Lab (INL) is in her backyard in Idaho Falls. This resolution is a reminder of the importance of the INL, not just to Idaho Falls, but to the entire state. **Representative Ehardt** shared stories of what the lab meant to her as a child, and the effect it had on others in the area. In 1955, the town of Arco, Idaho, was the first town to be entirely powered by nuclear power operated by the INL. She

said the expansion of the INL and the research in new technology (small modular reactors) will be a game changer for everyone.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Harris** asked if "homeland seniority" in the statement of purpose should read "homeland security." **Representative Ehardt** acknowledged it was a typo and asked for instructions to get it corrected. **Chairwoman Lodge** said they will have it amended.

Senator Anthon stated this is a very important piece of legislation, and the growth of the INL will have an impact on the Idaho Falls and Pocatello corridor. He said Idaho should start to prepare for this.

Senator Stennett said she will vote for this, stating her appreciation for the INL and the importance of the research and revenue to the state and to the country. She conceded that it was "carbon-free" energy, but said she will not concede it is "clean" because of the ongoing issue of nuclear waste and its impact on the aquifer. She stated she has reservations because of the by-products of non-clean energy.

MOTION: **Senator Stennett** moved to send **HCR 31** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

Senator Lodge, Chair

Twyla Melton, Secretary

Denise B. McNeil
Assistant to the Assistant Majority
Leader