

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 26, 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.

**RS 27822** **UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST** from the Transportation Committee for a Senate Concurrent Resolution to fund recommendations for moving agriculture and other products to market.

**Senator Brackett**, District 23, presented **RS 27822** and said the purpose of this legislation is for the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to obtain a study using the Rural Economic and Integrated Freight Transportation (REDIFit) program's money and return next year with results and recommendations. The REDIFit program has been in place over ten years and was set up as a loan program. **Senator Brackett** said the DOA will study the potential issues in transporting agricultural commodities and other manufactured products to market.

**MOTION:** **Senator Vick** moved to send **RS 27822** to print. **Vice Chairman Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**

**RS 27788** **UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST RELATING TO THE IDAHO ROADLESS RULE** from the Resources and Environment Committee to clarify the Commission's role as a partner with the U. S. Forest Service in certain instances.

**Senator Johnson**, District 6, presented **RS 27788**, which amends Idaho Code § 67-826, that established the Idaho Roadless Rule Implementation Commission. The amendments will clarify the Commission's role as a partner with the U.S. Forest Service, and will reduce the number of commissioners from 15 to a range of 9-12, subject to the discretion of the Governor.

**MOTION:** **Senator Souza** moved to send **RS 27788** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 27812** **RELATING TO THE IDAHO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT** to establish an independent Office of Administrative Hearings.

**Senator Burgoyne**, District 16, presented **RS 27812**. He said at the last hearing it was decided that **S 1274** be held until certain issues were addressed. **RS 27812** incorporates the amendments recommended by the Attorney General in his letter dated February 13, 2020, from discussions with the Governor's Office and with the Idaho Department of Water Resources. **Senator Burgoyne** said the recommendations for amendments in the new letter from the Attorney General's Office, dated February 25, 2020, were not addressed in this RS.

**MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send **RS 27812** to print. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 27778** **RELATING TO LIQUOR** to create a new category liquor license for hotels of a certain size and to make technical corrections.

**Jason Kreizenbeck**, of Lobby Idaho presented **RS 27778** and said this legislation would amend Idaho Code § 23-958, to add a new category for liquor license in hotels. He said there has been an increasing demand for more hotels for the visitors coming to Idaho for conferences, conventions, and recreation. Many of the new hotels coming to Idaho want to sell liquor to guests at banquets, dinners, receptions, and conventions, and have found it increasingly difficult to acquire a liquor license for their operations. **Mr. Kreizenbeck** acknowledged the lateness in presenting the RS to the Committee, and explained that negotiating these specific qualifications proved to be quite challenging but felt **RS 27778** met their needs.

**MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send **RS 27778** to print. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 27830** **RELATING TO ALCOHOL** to revise alcohol content, to provide for a certain tax, and to provide for revenue distribution.

**Senator Crabtree**, District 7, presented **RS 27830** and said this legislation will amend Idaho Code § 23-1002 to revise provisions regarding the alcohol content of strong beer. It will also amend Idaho Code § 23-1008 to provide for a certain tax, provide for revenue distribution and to make technical corrections. Strong beer will now be measured by volume and not weight. He said any beer with an alcohol content over 5% per volume falls under the new category of strong beer. With this change, strong beer will no longer fall under the category of wine, and the Wine Commission will no longer receive the residual revenue. New provisions will allow the Wine Commission to receive a percentage of the revenue over a period of time, and when that period ends, the money will be distributed to the General Fund.

**MOTION:** **Senator Souza** moved to send **RS 27830** to print. **Senator Vick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**HJR 4** **HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION** proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Idaho to fix the number of legislative districts at 35.

**Senator Hill** presented **HJR 4** which is a House Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Idaho State Constitution (Constitution) setting the number of legislative districts at 35. The Constitution states that Idaho can have between 30 to 35 districts, with no more than two representatives for each senator. He said the state currently has 35 districts due to the substantial growth throughout the state.

Responding to Senator Stennett's question on the timing of this amendment with redistricting looming, **Senator Hill** said that it should be done before the next redistricting. It adds consistency, the probability of lessening court time, and it will help the redistricting committee to work towards established goals.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Harris** moved to send **HJR 4** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**, with **Senators Stennett** and **Buckner-Webb** requesting they be recorded as voting nay.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:27 a.m.

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Senator Lodge, Chair

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Twyla Melton, Secretary

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Denise B. McNeil  
Assistant to the Assistant Majority  
Leader