

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, January 22, 2021

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Guthrie, Senators Winder, Anthon, Harris, Lee, Heider, Stennett, 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: **Chairwoman Lodge** called the meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:09 a.m.

VOTE ON GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **The Reappointment of Dennis Duehren to the Idaho Bingo-Raffle Advisory Board.**

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send the gubernatorial reappointment of Dennis Duehren to the Senate floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

VOTE ON GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **The Reappointment of Patricia Perkins to the Treasurer's Investment Advisory Board.**

MOTION: **Senator Stennett** moved to send the gubernatorial reappointment of Patricia Perkins to the Senate floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

VOTE ON GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **The Appointment of Reed Hansen to the Treasurer's Investment Advisory Board.**

MOTION: **Senator Anthon** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Reed Hansen to the Senate floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 28285: **Relating to the Legislature to Designate the Length of the Legislative Session.**

Senator Guthrie, District 28, stated the legislation places an end date on a legislative session to be on or before the last Friday in March. It also provides exceptions in case there is a need to override a gubernatorial veto or if unforeseen circumstances delay the session.

MOTION: **Senator Burgoyne** moved to send **RS 28285** to print. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Winder** said he supports the motion for a print hearing, but there is a lot of discussion that needs to occur. He said that once it gets to a public hearing, the Committee might want to consider adding more items because of the unknowns of the future.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 28226: Relating to the State Disaster Emergency Account to allow for the recovery of Federal Funds after a Declaration of State Emergency has expired/terminated.

Senator Harris, District 32, said the legislation amends Idaho Code § 46-1005A and adds language allowing the recovery of federal funds after a state of emergency declaration has expired or been terminated. He pointed out that the word "during" has been struck out of line 12 and "arising out of" has been added. It also allows the Governor to exceed one percent of the fiscal year's General Fund for allocation to a disaster, if the legislature passes a concurrent resolution. There is an emergency clause at the end of **RS 28226** that enacts the legislation upon passage and approval. He asked that the Committee send the bill to print.

MOTION: **Senator Anthon** moved to send **RS 28226** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1004: Relating to the Twenty-Seventh Payroll Fund to establish such fund.

Alex Adams, Administrator, Division of Financial Management, said the bill will create the Twenty-Seventh Payroll Fund. He explained how the State of Idaho normally has 26 pay periods for State employees, but there is a 27th period that occurs every 11 years. He said Idaho used the now-defunct Economic Recovery Reserve Fund under Governor Kempthorne's Administration in fiscal year 2006. The last extra pay period was covered by using the General Fund under Governor Otter's Administration in fiscal year 2017. **S 1004** creates a new fund that will be subject to legislative appropriations and will allow the legislature to make transfers to the fund at times of its choosing. The next time this situation will occur is fiscal year 2028, this bill allows Idaho to prepare for it.

The legislation does not make any appropriations or transfers that are a Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) action, rather it creates a fund setting up the opportunity to receive transfers from JFAC. He clarified that the Governor's budget recommends a \$15 million transfer over the next five years to the Twenty-Seventh Payroll Fund if it is created, to prepare for fiscal year 2028. He mentioned that his agency has discussed changing the pay period from two-week to bimonthly to address the issue, but said there would be a multitude of issues that could arise out of doing so. The proposed transfer fits best with current policies.

MOTION: **Senator Heider** moved to send **S 1004** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Burgoyne** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Winder** said he feels the bill is a good idea and that it takes away future uncertainties the legislature would have to face if the fund were not set up.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:24 a.m.

Senator Lodge, Chair

Twyla Melton, Secretary

Tucker Craig, Assistant Secretary