

MINUTES
SENATE JUDICIARY & RULES COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 31, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lakey, Vice Chairman Ricks, Senators Lodge, Lee, Anthon, Thayn, Zito, Burgoyne, and Wintrow

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: **Chairman Lakey** called the meeting of the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Zito** moved to approve the Minutes of January 31, 2022. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Anna "Janie" Dressen to the Commission on Pardons and Parole (Commission) to Serve a Term Commencing January 1, 2022 and expiring January 1, 2025.** **Ms. Dressen** gave a brief outline of her history with the Commission. Her commitment to serving on the Commission is her belief that people can change. The Commission provides those life changing opportunities. The part of her service she enjoys the most is "Pardon Days" because it gives her a chance to see how people have changed their lives and the success which comes with it. **Senator Lodge** asked how many years Ms. Dressen had served on the many boards she had worked on. **Ms. Dressen** responded that it was close to 24 years. **Senator Burgoyne** asked Ms. Dressen to share her thoughts on recidivism. **Ms. Dressen** said that the issue of mental health is an important factor when discussing recidivism. Inmates may be medicated appropriately when they are released, but it is problematic to make sure they follow through with the proper medications and dosage.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Lakey passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Ricks.

RS 29305 **Relating to the Custodian of Public Records.** **Chairman Lakey** stated that this legislation would provide an opportunity for a government entity to designate a custodian, basically a central contact, for records requests. If a custodian is designated, then the records requests are required to go through that custodian. If they do not designate a custodian, then a full plethora of employees and officials for that entity are open to receive the requests. A problem may arise when large volumes of e-mails are received and the potential to miss one is great. The time lines and codes for records requests are strict. A designated custodian would be familiar with the most efficient way to handle identifying the requests and responding to them. The Idaho State Legislature's record custodian is ultimately the Legislative Services Office (LSO) whether the request goes directly to them or to the individual legislators. This ensures there is not a missed email request and a quicker response time.

MOTION: **Senator Burgoyne** moved to send **RS 29305** to print. **Senator Thayn** seconded the motion. Motion passed by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Ricks passed the gavel to Chairman Lakey.

PRESENTATION

Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC) - 2022 Update. **Monty Prow**, Director, Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, explained the mission of the IDJC is to develop productive citizens in active partnership with communities. Idaho is built on the balanced approach, which is community safety, accountability, and competency development (see Attachment 1). **Director Prow** provided a video showing the resources and programs used in the Juvenile Correctional Facility in Lewiston, Idaho. It is safe and well staffed with people who are intrinsically motivated to be there. Age and level appropriate educational programs, social counseling, drug and addiction counseling are all provided. **Director Prow** said one of their main focus points is to get the juveniles to understand that what brought them to the facility is their history not their future. The Milestone Program helps them to separate who they were from who they have the potential to be. **Director Prow** assured the Committee that Idaho's Juvenile Justice systems are operating effectively and efficiently.

DISCUSSION:

Vice Chairman Ricks commented that the people in Eastern Idaho who are familiar with the Juvenile Correctional Facility in their area are pleased with the way it operates. **Senator Lee** asked how the IDJC had handled the challenges and stresses of COVID. **Director Prow** explained that their main responsibility was the safety of the kids and then the staff. The Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators met monthly sharing ways and ideas to keep the kids safe. That information was adopted and implemented locally. One important procedure that was followed was to determine the health status of the incoming and outgoing kids and make sure it was safe for them to enter and leave the centers. The daily scrub downs and use of hand sanitizers may continue to be used to reduce the spread of germs. **Senator Wintrow** questioned how many children coming into custody were experiencing unstable housing circumstances. **Director Prow** responded that, surprisingly, those affected the most are kids who come from two-parent families. The typical stereotypes do not hold true for Idaho's demographics. **Senator Lodge** asked what percentage of kids graduate with their high school diploma. **Director Prow** referred back to his presentation indicating 84%. That number is impacted by the age range of the kids when they enter the centers. The educational coverage they receive is outstanding. If they leave without their GED, the program directors make sure the kids are transitioned successfully back into their K-12 schools. **Chairman Lakey** asked Director Prow to comment on mental health issues at the correctional facilities. **Director Prow** stated that mental health is a need that must be addressed. Over time some types of mental health will get better on their own, but other types will require some form of treatment for a lifetime. He responded that it is about encouraging and providing resources for those needing them. Many times those learned skills will be helpful for the rest of their lives. The facilities have clinicians and medical providers working with the families and the kids to help them make the connection between needs that had been unaddressed.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lakey** adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Senator Lakey
Chair

Sharon Pennington
Secretary