

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, February 18, 2022

**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 Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m. She announced there would be a slight deviation from the order of the agenda.

**S 1310 RELATING TO THE ECONOMIC OUTLOOK & REVENUE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (EORAC)** to establish provisions to codify the EORAC.

**Alex Adams**, administrator, Division of Financial Management (DFM), explained that **S 1310** formalized a long standing informal process. The reasoning behind the legislation and the governance within the process was one of the things that the rating agencies took into account when looking at a state's credit rating. Good budgets start with good revenue forecasts; having a consensus process within the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) is seen as a best practice in reducing volatility and political risk. This would formalize the good governance that Idaho saw as a result of the efforts of the Executive Branch and Legislature working together which was, in part, the reason the State was upgraded to a Triple-A status by both Moody's and Fitch. **Mr. Adams** stood for questions.

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

**VOTE ON GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **VOTE ON THE GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT** of Jerry Aldape to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board.

**MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send the gubernatorial reappointment of Jerry Aldape to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board (IEFIB) to the Senate floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion.

**Senator Winder** spoke to his motion stating that Mr. Aldape has been very faithful in attendance, brings a wealth of banking and financial background to the IEFIB, and has been a good board member. He would highly recommend him to be reappointed.

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

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **THE GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT** of Robert Donaldson to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board.

**Mr. Donaldson** stated he grew up in western Pennsylvania but always had a love for this area. In 1983 he came to Idaho to do his doctorate work at the University of Idaho and then went to work for the Lewiston school district retiring thirty two years later after eight years as superintendent of the school district. During that time he was involved in getting a school bond passed to build a new high school and regional career technical center. The \$58 million dollar bond passed with a seventy-five percent approval rate. **Mr. Donaldson** said he sat with the IEFIB for three meetings. He commented about the learning curve but he had experience in the management of a \$40 million budget for the school district.

**Senator Anthon** thanked Mr. Donaldson for his interest in the IEFIB. He stated that there was a need for a varied background on all committees when looking at how to protect the taxpayer's dollar. **Senator Anthon** acknowledged that Mr. Donaldson's expertise will be very valuable.

**Chairwoman Lodge** thanked Mr. Donaldson for his interest in this position and noted that he would find it enriching and very important to Idaho. She announced voting would be at the next meeting.

**S 1311**

**RELATING TO STATE SYMBOLS** to add to existing law to designate the Idaho Cut as the official state cut for faceted gemstones.

**Senator Den Hartog**, District 22, introduced **S 1311** that would create a new state symbol for the State of Idaho uniquely connected to Idaho's name as the "Gem State". The Idaho Cut is a patented cut for gemstones that was developed by Mr. Howell. This legislation honors the legacy of Quincy Douglas Howell, an incredible Idahoan who had a unique story to tell. **Senator Den Hartog** stated that there were some family members attending the meeting and turned the time over to them.

**Erin Quincy Howell**, grandson of Quincy Douglas Howell who was the inventor of the Idaho Cut. Mr. E. Howell passed around samples of stones that were cut by Quincy Howell. **Mr. E. Howell** explained that a cut was an assembly of facets and that was the art form. Those arrangements are put together by the artist so the end result would be of tremendous beauty. The Idaho Cut was his opus because it was the most beautiful cut he had ever put together and he named it after the state he loved. **Mr. E. Howell** gave an overview of his grandfather's life including when he was born, where he lived, his military service and then his decision to facet the precious gems in Idaho, the Gem State. He listed the reviews he had in well known magazines, the art awards he won in competitions, and the trophies he brought home. He was known all over the world for his work with gem stones (see Attachment A). **Mr. E Howell** introduced the rest of the family in attendance: cousins Wendy and Sheree, wife, Sue Howell, and sons Drew Howell, Ben and Angie Howell, Austin and Journey Howell, and Gabriel Howell.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Stennett** moved to send **S 1311** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion.

**Senator Anthon** said this is a great story: an American and Idaho opportunity. He thanked Senator Den Hartog for bringing this bill forward.

**Senator Burgoyne** stated life was not all about politics and was grateful for this legislation, for Mr. Howell's grandfather, and what he accomplished. The stone is truly beautiful. Thank you for bringing this to the Committee.

**VOICE VOTE:**

The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**S 1288**

**RELATING TO DISTRICT JUDGES** to amend existing law and to revise provisions regarding the appointed term of certain district judges.

**Jason Hancock**, Deputy Secretary of State, explained that **S 1288** was brought forward by the Secretary of State's Office because it appeared that the letter of the language in Idaho Code was at variance with the intent of the Legislature when it set up the system for elections for District Court judges, and Code was also at variance with what had been the historic practice with elections. One small change was made to current statute in reference to the general election for district judges. **Mr. Hancock** explained the change on line 15 of the bill changed the reference from general election for district judges (November) to the judicial nominating election (May). This was a clean up between the letter of Code, and the legislative intent and practice.

**MOTION:** **Senator Stennett** moved to send **S 1288** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion.

**Senator Lee** stated her concern was about having someone in a position for five years. The questions that should be asked are, who is retiring within this time period, and is there an interest to have them not retire so the judicial council could replace rather than having the position open until an election. Was the intent of the legislation for people to run for these district judge positions, and are there fewer and fewer people available to run. The district judge positions should be watched to ensure that they were open within the communities.

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

**HCR 32** **STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING MISSION43** to urge the Governor and the State of Idaho to recognize Mission43, its efforts, and its leadership in ensuring that military veterans, their spouses, and their children were welcome and given the opportunity to pursue the American dream in Idaho.

**Senator Winder** stated that this legislation recognizes veterans and their spouses for their efforts to encourage others to participate in the Mission43 programs.

**Senator Winder** explained what happens when one was in the military, how it was all absorbing including friends, time, duty, and some very different, difficult, and dangerous activities. When a person exits that environment, they must define what their purpose in life will be. Mission43 encourages those veterans to continue to participate with one another, identify with other veterans and their families, and to be involved and stay connected in order to encourage one another. Mission43 was set up by the J. A. & Kathryn Albertson Foundation.

**Senator Stennett** asked if the Albertson Foundation continued to be the primary funding and were others involved like any nonprofit that would have contributors. Also, how long ago was this established? **Senator Winder** responded that the Albertson Foundation was the primary benefactor although others were involved. Mission43 was established about ten years ago.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **HCR 32** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **The Approval of the Minutes** of January 28, 2022.

**MOTION:** **Senator Anthon** moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2022. **Senator Burgoyne** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **The Approval of the Minutes** of February 14, 2022.

**MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to approve the minutes of February 14, 2022. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PAGE  
GRADUATION:**

**PAGE GRADUATION** for Haydon Madison.

**Chairwoman Lodge** welcomed Haydon Madison to the podium and asked him to tell about his experience here, what he learned, and how he thought it would affect his future.

**Haydon** said he thoroughly enjoyed being a page and it was one of the greatest opportunities he has had. The people you meet and understanding the processes will help him carry out the tasks that he incurs during his life. Seeing people work together was of great importance and he hoped to carry that same concept throughout his life. Haydon said he was going back to school and then on to Boise State University to continue his education in the mortgage business; he was currently getting his license in this area. He would also like to have his own family here in Idaho.

**Senator Winder** asked Haydon to share what he has learned with his friends and encourage them to be involved. Most importantly, to realize that this body was not like social media describes it nor how the normal person understands or perceives it. You are an eyewitness so you can share what you learn to students and adults. Hopefully, you will take away a very positive feeling about the business that was carried out here and the importance of having honesty and integrity to carry out that business.

**Chairwoman Lodge** agreed with Senator Winder and added that those who work here serve the people of Idaho and that was something to look up to. She presented Haydon with gifts from the Committee and a letter of appreciation signed by all members of the Committee.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:37 a.m.

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Senator Lodge  
Chair

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Twyla Melton  
Secretary