

MINUTES
HOUSE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 23, 2023

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Ehlers, Representatives Crane(13), Palmer, Barbieri, Dixon(1), Andrus, Furniss, Mitchell, Monks, Cornilles, Crane(12), Lanting, Petzke, Redman, Berch, Green (Miller), Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Reps. Barbieri, Dixon(1),Rubel

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Chairman Clow welcomed **Rep. Morgan Miller** substituting for **Rep. Green**.

Chairman Clow shared the next item on the agenda is to pick up where the committee left off on **DN. 24-0000-2201F** within the DOPL fee rules which should have been sent to the House Health & Welfare Committee.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (13)** made a motion to refer **DN. 24-0000-2201F** to the Health and Welfare Committee for their action. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Director Patty Perkins of the Department of Finance presented an overview of the organization. The department's mission is to safeguard the financial health of Idahoans through the appropriate oversight of diverse financial institutions, the education and protection of consumers, and by fostering sensible innovation in the financial services markets. She shared the department has a vision to excel in this space and do that through the practice of values instituted: trust, accountability, empowerment, collaboration, adaptability and fairness.

Deputy Director Anthony Polidori expanded more about the bureaus contained within the Department of Finance: Financial Institutions Bureau, Consumer Finance Bureau, Securities Bureau, and Supporting Services Bureau.

In response to committee questions: **Director Perkins** shared while it is not currently regulated by Federal or Idaho law, the Department of Finance is aware of issues surrounding cryptocurrency. The department's position is some activities utilized in the cryptocurrency market are subject to the Trust Institutions Act for the protection of Idahoans. Director Perkins also elaborated that if Idaho consumers are victims of financial fraud, the Department of Finance investigates. If the issue is not financial related, they would direct the consumer to the appropriate department.

Director Dean Cameron of the Department of Insurance introduced Deputy Director, **Wes Trexler**, Consumer Services Bureau Chief, **Randy Pipal**, Consumer Activities Bureau Chief, **Eric Fletcher**, and Public Information Officer, **Julie Robinson**. He thanked Department of Finance **Director Perkins**, sharing their departments' fraud units often collaborate on fraud cases. Director Cameron presented an overview of the Department of Insurance including the Consumer Services Bureau, Market Oversight Bureau, Company Activities Bureau and State Fire Marshal. He also shared the mission of the department is to serve and protect Idahoans by equitably and effectively and fairly administering the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code.

In response to committee questions, **Director Cameron** explained when fraud investigations determine the action to be taken is administrative in nature, it is referred to an administrative hearing, if it is determined there is enough evidence of criminality, it is referred to the Attorney General's office. He explained it's getting more difficult to find insurance in rural areas due to reinsurance and because of the number of fires on state lands and forest lands. Director Cameron shared that having the Fire Marshall housed within the Department of Insurance, which is true for most states, began with **Benjamin Franklin** who was the first fire chief and created the first fire insurance company.

Deputy Administrator Tim Frost of the Idaho Division of Occupational & Professional Licenses introduced **Administrator Russel Barron**, Building, Construction & Real Estate Bureau Chief, **Amy Lorenzo**, and Occupational Licenses Bureau Chief, **Ann Lawler** to the committee. Mr. Frost presented an overview of IDOPL including the division history which began with the signing of **H 318** and the creation of the new division from the former Bureau of Occupational Licenses. He shared the division's strategic plan covering 2022-2026 as well as their mission: "Consumer protection and public safety". He also explained about the move from multiple locations around the Treasure Valley to a consolidated location which began in 2021 and completed in 2022. Mr. Frost encouraged the committee members to take a tour of the new campus. He explained the new location is customer-centric for any of the board and commission meetings the public attends in person or online. Mr. Frost explained the final task from the governor was to seek efficiencies from the combined organizations with the consolidation of information technology systems across their boards. DOPL is currently in negotiations regarding that technology system.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Frost** explained they are in the final stages of the negotiations for the information technology systems.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Michelle Anderson
Secretary