

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 27, 2023
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW05
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Holtzclaw, Vice Chairman Bundy, Representatives Kingsley (Crawford), Wisniewski, Horman, Weber, McCann, Cheatum, Hawkins, Healey, Miller, Price, Wheeler, Chew, Roberts
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Horman
- 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 Holtzclaw** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2023 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- S 1054:** **Rep. Bundy** presented **S 1054**, legislation amending first responder re-employment in Idaho Code 59-1356 to change the sunset clause to 2027, define bonafide separation, remove the retirement date and require safety officers to contribute to the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho [PERSI].
- Richard Allen**, Idaho Chiefs of Police Association, and **John Evans**, Association of Idaho Cities and City of Garden City Mayor, testified **in support of S 1054**. They noted **S 1054** enhanced legislation currently in effect by removing restrictions regarding retirement dates, giving employers the chance to hire the most experienced officers.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to send **S 1054** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Bundy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- S 1019:** **Rep. Bundy** presented **S 1019**, legislation allowing unemployment insurance benefits to individuals who are leaving work due to being a victim of domestic violence or due to their military spouse being transferred.
- Jani Revier**, Director of the Idaho Department of Labor, she noted the unemployment program pays benefits to people who find themselves unemployed through no fault of their own.
- Director Revier** explained unemployment insurance benefits were warranted for claimants leaving employment due to domestic violence or transferring with a military spouse. She noted the fiscal impact of **S 1019** is \$200,000, and is expected to increase by three percent per year.
- Tammie Perreault**, Department of Defense, **Heather Cunningham**, Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance, and **Jennifer Beazer**, citizen, testified **in support of S 1019**. They stated **S 1019** provides financial security to military spouses and their family members, and helps protect victims of domestic violence by providing people with financial security.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Roberts** made a motion to send **S 1019** to the House with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Bundy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

- S 1020:** **Rep. Furniss** presented **S 1020**, legislation repealing the requirement for the Office of Group Insurance to promulgate rules for determining the eligibility of participants in the state's health insurance plan and adding a member to the Group Insurance Advisory Committee.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **S 1020** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Furniss** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- DOCKET NO. 21-0101-2201:** **Mark Tschampl**, Chief Administrator for the Idaho Division of Veterans Services, presented **Docket No. 21-0101-2201**, a pending rule removing a contradiction with Title 14, Chapter 5, Idaho Code, the Unclaimed Property Act and clarifying the rights of a resident regarding a notice of transfer or discharge and the rights of an applicant regarding notice of a denial of an application for residency.
- In response to questions from Committee members, **Mr. Tschampl** advised the changes do not reference the proposed statute, so each can be passed separately.
- MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 21-0101-2201.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- DOCKET NO. 17-0101-2201:** **Paul Jeffries**, Rule Review Officer for the Idaho Industrial Commission, presented **Docket No. 17-0101-2201**, a pending rule to remove a subsection to conform with the new language of Idaho Code § 72-404. **Docket No. 17-0101-2201** would remove the necessity for Commission approval in lump sum settlements.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Weber** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 17-0101-2201.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- DOCKET NO. 17-0101-2202:** **Patti Vaughn**, Benefits Administration Manager for the Idaho Industrial Commission presented **Docket No. 17-0101-2202**, a pending rule to change the implementation date for the updated Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) claims system.
- In response to questions from Committee members, **Ms. Vaughn** advised that if the new implementation date is missed then it will have to be changed once again. She noted there are multiple vendors that could help implement the new EDI system, but each vendor works with one state at a time.
- Chairman Holtzclaw** put the Committee at ease at 2:18 p.m.
- Chairman Holtzclaw** resumed the meeting 2:20 p.m.
- George Gutierrez**, Director of the Industrial Commission, addressed the Committee. Director Guterrez noted the contract included a ten percent hold back if the product is not delivered on time, which at the end of the contract is June of 2024.
- MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 17-0101-2202.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- DOCKET NO. 17-1101-2201:** **Kamerron Slay**, Commission Secretary for the Idaho Industrial Commission, presented **Docket No. 17-1101-2201**, a pending rule to clarify the disputes process relating to injuries sustained by Peace Officers Responding to an emergency; When in the pursuit of an actual or suspected violator of the law; or when the injury is caused by the actions of another person.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Healey** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 17-1101-2201.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Representative Holtzclaw
Chair

Jeremy Collier
Secretary