

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 08, 2023

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Burtenshaw, Senators Guthrie, Harris, Okuniewicz, Schroeder, Semmelroth, and Taylor

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Vice Chairman Adams, Senator Den Hartog

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 Burtenshaw** called the meeting of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) to order at 1:00 p.m.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE: **Senator Schroeder** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Craig Hill of Priest Lake, Idaho to the Lake Pend Oreille Basin Commission to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Okuniewicz** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 119: **FLOOD DISTRICTS - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding flood control district commissioners.** **Dan Steenson**, Sawtooth Law, reviewed the purpose and role of flood districts, how they were formed, and how flood district commissioners were appointed. He explained **H 119** allowed flood district boards to appoint or reappoint commissioners after their terms expire or to fill vacancies, rather than requiring the director of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) to do so, it allowed commissioners to appoint a resident and a qualified elector of the district who was not from the division within the district as a person at-large, and it allowed Commissioner Bonds to be filed with the secretary of the Board of the Board of Commissioners, rather than by the Clerk of the Court.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Burtenshaw** asked if someone could qualify to be appointed as a commissioner who was not involved with agriculture or agricultural water. **Mr. Steenson** responded that there were flood control districts that only included developed land, so depending on the land use composition of the district, there could be commissioners that were not engaged in agriculture. In response to a question from Senator Schroeder, **Mr. Steenson** confirmed commissioners were appointed, not elected.

MOTION: **Senator Semmelroth** moved to send **H 119** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Schroeder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 143: **FISH AND GAME - Amends existing law to provide for a fur buyer license and to revise provisions regarding taxidermist and fur buyer licenses.** **Senator Harris** explained **H 143** added a 3-Day Fur Buyer Licence for non-residents to buy fur. He explained out-of-state fur buyers currently had to buy a fur buyer's license for one year for \$185, even though they only needed a few days to come to Idaho, buy furs, and leave. This was a deterrent for some out-of-state fur buyers.

DISCUSSION: In response to a question from Chairman Burtenshaw, **Senator Harris** stated the three day licence would be \$72.50. **Senator Taylor** asked how many of these 3-Day licences did the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) expect to sell and if there was a fur show coming up soon. **Senator Harris** responded that these might be good questions for someone else.

TESTIMONY: **Amber Worthington**, Deputy Director, IDFG, testified in favor of **H 143**. She shared that IDFG supported the efforts of Idaho trappers to get the highest return for their sales and to promote their industry, and providing the opportunity for a three day fur buyer licence to nonresidents would support that effort.

Benn Brocksome, representing Idaho Sportsmen, testified in favor of **H 143**. In response to Senator Taylor's questions, he stated there was a fur sale coming up on April 7, 2023 in Glens Ferry. He estimated allowing a three day fur buyer licence would double attendance to that event.

MOTION: **Senator Taylor** moved to send **H 143** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Schroeder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 144: **FISH AND GAME - Amends existing law to provide for trapping license certificates.** **Senator Harris** explained **H 144** added a lifetime trapping license to Idaho Code § 36-413. Idaho Code already provided for lifetime hunting and fishing licences.

TESTIMONY: **Amber Worthington**, Deputy Director, IDFG, and **Benn Brocksome**, representing Idaho Sportsmen, testified in favor of **H 144**. Both stated adding a lifetime license would enhance the opportunities available to the trapping industry. **Ms. Worthington** stated the amounts established in this legislation were consistent with the calculations used for the other lifetime licenses.

DISCUSSION: In response to a question from Senator Guthrie, **Mr. Brocksome** stated this legislation does not change the lifetime fee calculation formulas that already existed for hunting and fishing, and confirmed someone age 50 would have to wait until age 85 to break even on the lifetime licence. **Senator Guthrie** then asked if someone as young as two years of age could obtain a lifetime trapping license. **Mr. Brocksome** confirmed that they could, and lifetime licenses were often given as a gift, such as from a grandparent.

MOTION: **Senator Schroeder** moved to send **H 144** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

HCR 3: **NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES STUDY - States findings of the Legislature and authorizes the Legislative Council to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of natural resource issues.** **Representative Raybould** explained **HCR 3** was a concurrent resolution to authorize an interim resources and conservation committee between the House and the Senate that would meet between legislative sessions to address natural resource issues as they arise. This legislation would reestablish what had already been done historically.

MOTION: **Senator Schroeder** moved to send **HCR 3** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business as this time, **Chairman Burtenshaw** adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Senator Burtenshaw
Chair

Shelly Johnson
Secretary