

MINUTES
SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT & TAXATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 2023

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Ricks, Vice Chairman Schroeder, Senators Grow, Cook, Adams, Bernt, Trakel, Rabe, and Just

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 Ricks** convened the meeting of the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee (Committee) at 2:05 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Vice Chairman Schroeder** moved to approve the minutes of February 28, 2023. **Senator Bernt** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Just** moved to approve the minutes of March 7, 2023. **Senator Cook** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

H 258 **Representative Tanner** presented **H 258**. He explained that Idaho Code § 63-705A provided property tax or occupancy tax relief in the amount of \$1500 per year to a veteran with a 100 percent service-connected permanent and total disability. Under current law, a veteran had to reapply annually for this relief. **H 258** amended Idaho Code § 63-705A to allow a veteran to apply once for the relief which continued in subsequent years unless the veteran changed homesteads.

MOTION: **Senator Grow** moved to send **H 258** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Bernt** seconded the motion. The motion to send **H 258** to the floor with a do pass recommendation passed by **voice vote**.

H 245 **Representative Mickelsen** presented **H 245**. She stated that this bill increased the distribution of monies from cigarette and tobacco taxes to the Cancer Data Registry of Idaho from \$120,000 to \$360,000 per year. **Representative Mickelsen** explained that the allocation of funds to the cancer registry had not been increased in 11 years. They were entering a new four year contract with the Idaho Hospital Association who operated the registry and required additional funds. The cancer registry helped to locate pockets of cancer and identify areas where screening needed to be increased.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Cook** inquired where the additional funding was coming from. **Representative Mickelsen** replied that cigarette and tobacco taxes were distributed based on an order of priority set forth in Idaho Code § 63-2520(b)(5). The lowest priority was the Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation Fund who had agreed to a redistribution of their funds to the cancer registry.

- TESTIMONY:** **Elke Shaw-Tulloch**, Administrator of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Division of Public Health, spoke in support of **H 245**. She provided a history of the cancer registry. **Ms. Shaw-Tulloch** explained that the goals of the cancer registry were to determine the incidence of cancer in the state with respect to geographic, demographic and social characteristics; monitor the trends and patterns of cancer incidence over time; identify high risk populations; provide a database and serve as a resource to conduct investigative studies on cancer prevalence; and provide data to assist with effective cancer prevention, diagnosis, intervention, treatment, and care. She reiterated that **H 245** did not provide for additional taxes, but was a redistribution of current cigarette and tobacco taxes.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Cook** asked for clarification that the funds did not go to an individual, but were used to study the effects of cancer, maintain data, assist in cancer prevention and for other purposes. **Ms. Shaw-Tulloch** confirmed his understanding.
- TESTIMONY:** **Brian Whitlock**, President of the Idaho Hospital Association, testified in support of **H 245**. He further discussed the distribution of cigarette and tobacco tax funds under Idaho Code § 63-2520(b)(5).
- DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Ricks** asked whether there were any tax increases in **H 245**. **Mr. Whitlock** responded that there were not any tax increases. The funds were simply redistributed.
- Senator Bernt** asked what happened if there were no funds in the Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation Fund in a given year. **Mr. Whitlock** explained that in previous years the legislature had allocated general funds to that fund.
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Schroeder** moved to send **H 245** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Grow** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.
- RS 30628** **Vice Chairman Schroeder** asked for unanimous consent that **RS 30628**, a Concurrent Resolution rejecting IDAPA 35.01.01 relating to Income Tax Administrative Rules, Rules of the State Commission, adopted as a pending rule under Docket Number 35-0101-2201, be sent to a privileged committee for printing. There were no objections.
- ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Ricks** adjourned the meeting at 2:26 p.m.

Senator Ricks
Chair

Meg Lawless
Secretary