

MINUTES

SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 16, 2023

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Cook, Vice Chairman Lenney, Senators Lakey, Guthrie, Foreman, Hartgen, and Ward-Engelking

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Ricks and Ruchti

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 Cook** called the meeting of the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee (Committee) to order at 1:01 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Vice Chair Lenney** moved to approve the Minutes of March 9, 2023. **Senator Foreman** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1067 **INSURANCE - Amends existing law to provide certain limitations on coverage.** **Chairman Cook** announced this bill would be heard later on the agenda.

H 235 **UNDERGROUND FACILITIES DAMAGE PREVENTION - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding underground facilities damage prevention.** **Senator Harris** noted under current damage prevention statute there was not a definition for, or direction about how to handle an emergency excavation. This legislation further defined "emergency" (relative to this chapter of law), "emergency excavation" and "notice of emergency excavation," and established a process for underground facility owners to handle an emergency excavation. It also extended the length of time a maintained surface-marking for utility facilities was valid from 3 weeks to 4 weeks.

Senator Harris stated this legislation caused no additional expenditure of funds at the State or local level of government nor did it cause an increase or decrease in revenue for State or local government, therefore, the legislation had no fiscal impact.

MOTION: **Senator Hartgen** moved to send **H 235** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lakey** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 168 **EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PROGRAM - Adds existing law to establish procedures to verify the integrity of the employment security program.** **Representative Mitchell** stated the purpose of this legislation was to enhance program integrity for the State's unemployment insurance program. COVID-19 brought mass employment. Unfortunately, it also brought massive amounts of waste, fraud, and abuse to our nations' employment programs. Nationally, it was estimated that unemployment programs may have lost between \$87 billion to \$400 billion to fraudulent or wasteful claims. This legislation required the Idaho Department of Labor (IDOL) to perform routine cross checks of existing data bases in which the State already had access, such as new hire records, death records, prison roles, and others.

Representative Mitchell stated it was not anticipated that this legislation imposed any new costs to IDOL. However, if additional costs were required, it was expected to be minimal. Currently, IDOL was already performing many of these functions.

By codifying these best practices, Idaho taxpayers and businesses would be provided greater protections.

MOTION: **Vice Chair Lenney** moved to send **H 168** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Foreman** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 65 **NOTICES - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding obsolete websites.** **Senator Lakey** stated this legislation removed dead or unnecessary URL links in Idaho Code §§ 45-1506C and 45-1602. The legislation also removed obsolete language from Idaho Code § 45-1602. There was no increase or decrease in revenue for State or local government; therefore, the legislation had no fiscal impact.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **H 65** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Hartgen** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1067 **Chairman Cook** announced this bill would be continued to the next meeting because Senator Ruchti was unable to attend.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Cook** adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Senator Cook
Chair

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary