MINUTES
JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 23, 2024
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room C310
MEMBERS PRESENT: Senators Co-Chairman Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, Herndon, Ward-Engelking, Just
Representatives Co-Chair Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Handy, Lambert, Petzke, Tanner, Green

ABSENT/EXCUSED: None

Co-Chair Horman called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Mr. Bybee presented the FY 2025 budget for the Agricultural Research & Extension Service (ARES).

MOTION: Sen. Burtenshaw made a motion, seconded by Rep. Bundy, for the Agricultural Research and Extension Service, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to add 0.37 FTP and $232,600 for support staff and operating costs at the Parma Plant and Soil Health Center; 2.00 FTP and $322,200 for irrigation and forestry faculty members; $142,000 for adult computer literacy; and $564,200 for the 2% Change in Employee Compensation (CEC). This motion includes an additional $1,119,000 from the General Fund and $142,000 from federal funds, for a total of $1,261,000, and an additional 2.37 full-time equivalent positions and reappropriation authority for federal funds.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: Motion carried by a total vote of 18 AYES, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED.


The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.

Mr. Bybee presented the FY 2024 supplemental appropriation for the Office of the State Board of Education. The Office of the State Board of Education (OSBE) requests spending authority for $30,800 in onetime funds to support continued work between April and June 2024 as part of a $200K grant from the Lumina Foundation to expand Idaho’s Direct Admissions Program.

Motion carried by a total vote of 19 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED.


The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.

Mr. Bybee presented the FY 2025 budget for the Office of the State Board of Education (OSBE). OSBE is comprised of three distinctly budgeted programs: the OSBE Administration Program; Data Management; and the School Safety and Security Program. The School Safety and Security Program was relocated from the Division of Building Safety in FY 2022. This year, OSBE has requested 12 line items; eight of those line items are recommended by the Governor.

Sen. Lent made a motion, seconded by Rep. Miller, for FY 2025, for the Office of the State Board of Education, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to add 3.00 FTP and $285,500 from the In-Demand Career Fund for college/career training coordinators; 1.00 FTP and $115,200 for a senior IT business analyst; 1.00 FTP and $117,700 for a new data governance manager; 4.00 FTP and $520,900 to transfer risk managers to OSBE; $30,000 for a used vehicle; $126,400 for a Lumina grant; 1.00 FTP and $119,700 for a higher education safety and security analyst; $250,000 to support the arts education grant program; and $147,500 for the 2% CEC. For the Office of the State Board of Education for FY 2025, this motion includes an additional $1,264,100 from the General Fund and $448,800 from dedicated funds, for a total of $1,712,900, and an additional 10.00 full-time equivalent positions, and includes reappropriation for all unobligated School Facilities Safety and Security Grants and reappropriation for all unobligated American Rescue Plan and Covid-19 Relief Funding to rebuild the longitudinal data system otherwise known as ISEE.

Sen. Lent stated the funding for arts education has been $1M onetime for the last two years. This motion changes the funding to $250K ongoing.

Sen. Herndon made an substitute motion, seconded by Rep. Tanner, for FY 2025, for the Office of the State Board of Education, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to add 3.00 FTP and $285,500 from the In-Demand Career Fund for college/career training coordinators, onetime; 1.00 FTP and $115,200 for a senior IT business analyst; 1.00 FTP and $117,700 for a new data governance manager; 4.00 FTP and $520,900 to transfer risk managers to OSBE; $30,000 for a used vehicle; $126,400 for a Lumina grant; 1.00 FTP and $119,700 for a higher education safety and security analyst; $250,000 onetime to support the arts education grant program; and $147,500 for the 2% CEC. For Office of the State Board of Education for FY 2025, this motion includes an additional $1,264,100 from the General Fund and $448,800 from dedicated funds, for a total of $1,712,900, and an additional 10.00 full-time equivalent positions, and includes reappropriation for all unobligated School Facilities Safety and Security Grants and reappropriation for all unobligated American Rescue Plan and Covid-19 Relief Funding to rebuild the longitudinal data system otherwise known as ISEE.
Sen. Herndon stated this substitute motion differs from the original motion in two details. The $285K from the In-Demand Career Fund for college and career training coordinators is onetime because the related three FTPs in the Workforce Development Council (WDC) budget are also onetime. This motion gives OSBE the opportunity to determine if it can automate processing the information to Next Steps Idaho. In addition, this motion keeps the $250K support for the arts education program as onetime rather than ongoing.

Co-Chair Homan pointed out line item eight in both motions depends on pending germane policy legislation.

Co-Chairman Grow observed the Governor's recommendation uses General Funds; both these motions use dedicated funds.

ROLL CALL

ROLL CALL

The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Homan.

Mr. Jared Tatro, Deputy Division Manager, LSO Budget & Policy Analysis, presented the FY 2024 supplemental appropriation for Idaho Public Television (IPTV). This federal grant from the Department of Defense will replace transmitters and translators used as part of the public alert warning system. IPTV, in cooperation with the Military Division, oversees and operates the public-facing portion of the state emergency communication system.

MOTION: Rep. Bundy made a motion, seconded by Sen. Adams, for FY 2024, for Idaho Public Television, from the Federal Grant Fund, an additional $700,000 for the Next Gen Warning System Grant.

ROLL CALL

The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Homan.
Mr. Tatro presented the FY 2025 budget for IPTV. IPTV operates under the State Board of Education with three functions: the statewide delivery system of emergency communications; content creation and acquisition; and coordination with the Millennium Fund and state agencies on media campaigns. The statewide emergency broadcast system is funded by the General Fund; content creation and acquisition are funded by donations from Idahoans.

MOTION: Sen. Adams made a motion, seconded by Rep. Bundy, for Idaho Public Television, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to add $42,400 for replacement items; $26,100 for the 2% CEC; to add 1.00 limited service FTP for the Millennium Fund Committee Recommendation; and reappropriation for all unobligated Federal Funds and Millennium Income Funds. For FY 2025, this motion for Idaho Public Television includes an additional $68,500 from the General Fund and 1.00 additional full-time equivalent position, with the FTP being included in the Millennium Fund Appropriation Bill.

Sen. Adams stated the 1.00 FTP should have been included in the recommendation for the Millennium Fund. The funding for the 1.0 FTP is in the Millennium Fund budget, but the 1.0 FTP was inadvertently omitted.


The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.

Mr. Tatro presented the FY 2025 budget for the State Independent Living Council (SILC).

MOTION: Sen. VanOrden made a motion, seconded by Rep. Green, for the State Independent Living Council, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to add $10,000 for external audit support and $11,400 for the 2% CEC. This motion includes for the State Independent Living Council for FY 2025, an additional $12,600 from the General Fund and $8,800 from dedicated funds, for a total of $21,400.

Sen. VanOrden stated SILC is required in Idaho Code to have an annual audit. This motion provides the additional funding necessary for a new auditor, based on amounts in received bids.


The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.
Ms. Brooke Dupree, Analyst, LSO Budget & Policy, presented the FY 2025 budget for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The Division has two budgeted programs: Vocational Rehabilitation and the Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. This agency assists Idahoans with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, advance in, and retain meaningful employment.

MOTION: Sen. Ward-Engelking made a motion, seconded by Rep. Bundy, for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to add 2.00 FTP and $173,400 for senior counselor positions; to approve a net-zero transfer between account categories as requested; to add $93,700 for replacement items, and $212,100 for the 2% CEC. For FY 2025, this motion includes an additional $104,900 from the General Fund, $2,600 from dedicated funds, and $371,700 from federal funds, for a total of $479,200, and additional full-time equivalent positions of 2.00 for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.


The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.

Ms. Dupree presented the FY 2024 supplemental appropriation for the Department of Labor. The Department of Labor requests a net-zero transfer between programs to realign its FY 2024 Base with the cost allocation by fund within Luma. There is a corresponding enhancement in the FY 2025 budget request.

MOTION: Sen. Cook made a motion, seconded by Rep. Handy, for FY 2024, for the Department of Labor, an additional $1,575,500 for the Administrative Services Program and a reduction of $871,800 from the Determinations Program and $703,900 from the Workforce and Commissions Program.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: Motion carried by a total vote of 20 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, Herndon, Ward-Engelking, Just. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: None. Representatives voting in favor of the motion: Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Lambert, Tanner, Petzke, Handy, Green. Representatives voting in opposition to the motion: None.

The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.

Ms. Dupree presented the FY 2025 budget for the Department of Labor. The Department has three enhancement requests in addition to the 2% CEC and the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) consolidation.
MOTION: 
Rep. Handy made a motion, seconded by Sen. Cook, for the Department of Labor, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to add $3,329,400 for SSA Backlog Adjudication, to approve a net-zero transfer between programs as requested, to add $811,200 for the 2% CEC, and to add $169,000 and to reduce 17.00 FTP for the OITS consolidation. For FY 2025, this motion includes an additional $9,500 from the General Fund, $50,600 from dedicated funds, and $4,249,500 from federal funds, for a total of $4,309,600, and a reduction of 17.00 FTP for the Department of Labor.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: Motion carried by a total vote of 20 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT/EXCUSED.

The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.

Ms. Dupree presented the FY 2025 budget for the Workforce Development Council (WDC). WDC increases public awareness of and access to career education and training opportunities for Idahoans. The agency requests four enhancement items as well as the 2% CEC.

MOTION: 
Rep. Petzke made a motion, seconded by Sen. Lent, for the Workforce Development Council, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to add $70,766,700 for Launch Grants, 3.00 FTP and $219,400 for Launch Grants Personnel onetime, $190,000 for ARPA Grants Personnel costs onetime, and $23,500 for the 2% CEC. For FY 2025, this motion includes an additional $71,003,400 from dedicated funds and $196,200 from federal funds, for a total of $71,199,600, and additional full-time equivalent positions of 3.00 for the Workforce Development Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: Motion carried by a total vote of 16 AYES, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSENT/EXCUSED.

The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.

Ms. Dupree explained intent language proposed for this budget.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: 
Sen. Adams requested unanimous consent to accept the following intent language:
Of the moneys appropriated in Section 1 of this act, for the grant cycle beginning in November of 2024, for each semester or trimester, eligible coursework shall include courses or training specific for the applicants declared in-demand career. Grant funding shall be repaid to the In-Demand Careers Fund if the above conditions are not met in any term. However, the student will not lose eligibility if they continue to study for an In-Demand profession. In-demand careers that require a post-baccalaureate degree are ineligible for grant funding.


Co-Chair Horman put the committee at ease at 8:51 a.m.

Co-Chair Horman resumed the meeting at 8:54 a.m.

Sen. Adams made a motion, seconded by Rep. Tanner, to accept the following intent language:

Of the moneys appropriated in Section 1 of this act, for the grant cycle beginning in November of 2024, for each semester or trimester, eligible coursework shall include courses or training specific for the applicants declared in-demand career. Grant funding shall be repaid to the In-Demand Careers Fund if the above conditions are not met in any term. However, the student will not lose eligibility if they continue to study for an In-Demand profession. In-demand careers that require a post-baccalaureate degree are ineligible for grant funding.

Rep. Petzke spoke to his objection. He stated he supported the language itself, but in his opinion, it crosses the line from appropriation to policy. Additionally, it will create confusion within the Launch program about whether this policy is onetime or ongoing. This language needs to be a separate policy bill.

Sen. Lent stated the budget workgroup for the successful appropriation motion developed similar language but ultimately determined it should be a policy bill in a future legislative session. All budget workgroup members desire more focus on the distribution and disbursement of these funds; this direction should come in a separate policy bill.

Rep. Tanner understood members' concerns about whether this motion creates policy but asserted Idaho Launch is a new program in its first year; it is a good time to establish expectations.

Sen. Adams spoke to his motion. This appropriation is for the Workforce Development Council (WDC) and filling in-demand careers, not education itself. He demonstrated how these monies can fund general education requirements rather than specific classes for in-demand careers.

Sen. Herndon stated H 24, the original Idaho Launch bill, did include legislative intent. The purpose of the act was to enable WDC to coordinate the state's policy to match Idaho students with jobs in in-demand fields. The H 24 policy bill specified workforce training; this language is not inconsistent with that policy bill.

Sen. Adams stated the committee often adds intent language to appropriations to ensure the funds go where intended. This motion does not change the policy of Idaho Launch; WDC can implement these requirements. This motion ensures WDC does so.
Motion failed by a total vote of 7 AYES, 12 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED.

Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Bjerke, Adams, Herndon.


Ms. Dupree explained intent language associated with this budget.

Rep. Petzke requested and it was granted by unanimous consent, to accept the following intent language:

SECTION _. REAPPROPRIATION AUTHORITY. There is hereby reappropriated to the Workforce Development Council any unexpended and unencumbered balance appropriated to the Workforce Development Council from dedicated and federal funds for the purpose of workforce training grants, childcare infrastructure grants, semiconductor grants, and Launch grants for FY 2024 for the period July 1, 2024, through July 30, 2025. The Office of the State Controller shall confirm the reappropriation amounts, by fund, expense class, and program, with the Legislative Services Office prior to processing the reappropriation authorized herein.

Ms. Dupree presented the FY 2025 budget for the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Rep. Miller made a motion, seconded by Sen. Bjerke, for the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to add $1,140,400 for Aware Case Management Software and $62,700 for the 2% CEC. For FY 2025, this motion includes an additional $259,200 from the General Fund, $300 from dedicated funds, and $943,600 from federal funds, for a total of $1,203,100 for the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Motion carried by a total vote of 18 AYES, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED.


The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Herman.

Ms. Christine Otto, Principal Analyst, LSO Budget & Policy, presented the FY 2025 budget for Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI).

Sen. Herndon made a motion, seconded by Rep. Petzke, for the Public Employee Retirement System, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to add $3,000,000 for a pension software upgrade, $82,000 to refurbish cubicles, $282,600 for replacement items, and $124,400 for the 2% CEC. For FY 2025, this motion includes an additional $3,489,000 from dedicated funds for the Public Employee Retirement System.

Sen. Herndon stated line item one is a continuation of the agency's multi-year software upgrade.
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<td>VOTE ON</td>
<td>The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.</td>
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<td>MOTION:</td>
<td>Ms. Otto presented the FY 2024 supplemental appropriation for the Office of the State Controller (SCO). She explained the Governor recommended $75K onetime from the General Fund for miscellaneous payments associated with the payout of the final claims to the Catastrophic Health Care Fund. However, currently there is one final claim for $24K. It is unknown if there will be future claims.</td>
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<td>MOTION:</td>
<td>Rep. Furniss made a motion, seconded by Sen. Bjerke, for Fiscal Year 2024, for the State Controller, in the Administration Program, $24,000 onetime to pay for the state portion of claims associated with the Catastrophic Health Care Fund.</td>
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<td>VOTE ON</td>
<td>The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.</td>
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<td>MOTION:</td>
<td>Ms. Otto presented the FY 2025 budget for the Office of the State Controller (SCO).</td>
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<td>MOTION:</td>
<td>Sen. Herndon made a motion, seconded by Rep. Tanner, for the State Controller, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget, to provide a net-zero adjustment to realign the budget and to add $182,700 for the 2% CEC. For FY 2025, this motion includes an additional $81,400 from the General Fund and $101,300 from dedicated funds, for a total of $182,700.</td>
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<td>MOTION:</td>
<td>Sen. Herndon stated this motion does not include the new positions of the ongoing personnel, as the continuous appropriation from the Business Investment Infrastructure Fund is available through FY 2025. A request can be made with the FY 2026 budget.</td>
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<td>Co-Chair Horman clarified this motion leaves those requests on the Business Infrastructure Fund, rather than transferring them to the General Fund this year.</td>
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The majority having voted in the affirmative and without objection the legislation will carry a DO PASS recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by Co-Chair Horman.

Ms. Otto explained the intent language below. This language is standard language for SCO to take the statewide cost allocation from the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund and deposit it into the General Fund going forward.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST:

Sen. Herndon requested and it was granted by unanimous consent, to accept the following intent language:

SECTION _. INDIRECT COST RECOVERY. The moneys assessed by the Division of Financial Management in accordance with Section 67-3531, Idaho Code, for the Office of the State Controller services shall be placed in the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund. On June 30, 2025, the State Controller shall transfer the amount assessed in the statewide cost allocation plan from the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund to the state General Fund.

Ms. Janet Jessup, Principal Analyst, LSO Budget & Policy, presented the technical correction for the FY 2025 budget for the Idaho Department of Water. This reappropriation authority language was inadvertently excluded from the decisions made earlier this session for the Department of Water Resources. This language allows the agency to reappropriate funds from the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund, not to exceed $75.5M. This amount of money is included in the agency's supplemental appropriation for FY 2024. This action would provide the Department access to those dollars going into FY 2025 and avoid the necessity for a supplemental appropriation next year, as the funds have demonstrated they will likely not be encumbered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST:

Sen. Burtenshaw requested and it was granted by unanimous consent, to accept the following intent language:

SECTION _. REAPPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR ARPA FUNDS. There is hereby reappropriated to the Department of Water Resources any unexpended and unencumbered balances appropriated or reappropriated to the Department of Water Resources in the Planning and Technical Services Program from the ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund, in an amount not to exceed $75,502,500, to be used for nonrecurring expenditures related to water infrastructure projects for fiscal year 2024 for the period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The Office of the State Controller shall confirm the reappropriation amount, by fund, expense class, and program, with the Legislative Services Office prior to processing the reappropriation authorized herein.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

___________________________  ________________________
Representative Horman            Alyson Jackson
Chair                             Secretary