

MINUTES
HOUSE JUDICIARY, RULES & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 29, 2024

TIME: 1:30 PM or UPON ADJOURNMENT

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Skaug, Vice Chairman Scott, Representatives Ehardt, Young, Cannon, Erickson, Alfieri, Allgood, Dixon(24), Gallagher, Garner, Handy, Lambert, Sauter, Wroten, Gannon, Mathias, Achilles

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Mathias

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 Skaug called the meeting to order at 1:51pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Wroten** made a motion to approve the February 27, 2024 meeting minutes. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 654: **Rep. Erickson** and **Director Josh Tewalt**, Idaho Department of Correction, presented **H 654** regarding corrections, employment, and benefits.

Committee inquired regarding the number of inmates, additional burdens to employees when hiring former or current inmates, and application to county jails.

MOTION: **Rep. Wroten** made a motion to send **H 654** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Erickson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 513: **Rep. Boyle** presented **H 513** regarding sheriff duties and traffic.

Committee inquired regarding current emergency practices, and other authorities permitted to close roads.

Sheriff Chris Goetz, Clearwater County Sheriff, Idaho Sheriff's Association, and **Sheriff Matt Thomas**, Washington County Sheriff's Office, testified **in support.**

Committee inquired regarding opposition to the legislation, and boundaries of authority for different entities.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to send **H 513** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Skaug turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Scott.**

H 606: **Rep. Skaug** presented **H 606** regarding penalties for possession of less than 3 ounces of marijuana.

Committee inquired regarding penalties, discretion, harshness of fine, range of penalties, and 3 ounce language in current statute.

Lieutenant Jason Kimball, Nampa Police Department, **Anthony Oxsen**, **Sheriff Matt Thomas**, Washington County Sheriff's Office, **Titus Folks**, Idaho Family Policy Center, and **Dan Murphy** testified **in support.**

Amy Dundon, ACLU of Idaho, testified **in opposition.**

Committee inquired regarding marijuana possession as a misdemeanor, court costs and restitution, first offense issues regarding minors and comparison to under-age alcohol consumption, judicial discretion, juvenile probation, infractions, relationship between alcohol and violent crime, and abuse and use of medical marijuana.

MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to send **H 606** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Cannon** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 606** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Scott turned the gavel over to **Chairman Skaug**.

H 613: **Rep. Boyle** presented **H 613** regarding advertisement of illegal products.

Sheriff Chris Goetz, Clearwater County Sheriff, Idaho Sheriff's Association, **Chief Rex Ingram**, Caldwell Police Department, and **Grace Howat**, Idaho Family Policy Center, testified **in support**.

Julianne Donnelly Tzul, ACLU of Idaho, testified **in opposition**.

Committee inquired regarding clarification of intent of legislation, regulation of services, application of the term "willfully", clarification of types of media, federal application, and language confusion.

MOTION: **Rep. Ehardt** made a motion to send **H 613** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Young** made a substitute motion to send **H 613** to General Orders. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Cannon** and **Ehardt** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Director Josh Tewalt, Idaho Department of Correction, presented a post execution report regarding the attempted execution of **Thomas Creech**.

Committee inquired regarding the death warrant process, execution time-line of thirty days, application of mechanized firing squad, location of IV attempts, assessment of available veins, exterior firing squad facility viability, present hindrances to setting up a firing squad structure, possibility of politics playing a part in the failed execution, and possibility of countermeasures by **Mr. Creech**.

Chairman Skaug held the remaining agenda item to be heard at a future meeting.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:56pm.

Representative Skaug
Chair

Nancy Conrad
Secretary