

MINUTES

SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 05, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Cook, Senators Guthrie, Ricks, Foreman, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, and Ruchti

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Lakey and Hartgen

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 1:33 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Ricks** moved to approve the Minutes of February 27, 2024. **Senator Foreman** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 505 **DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the duration and renewal of occupational and professional licenses.** **Krissy Veseth**, Bureau Chief, Division of Professional and Occupational Licenses (DOPL), reported for Representative Ehlers. She stated the purpose of this legislation was to update all licensure renewals under DOPL to a biennial renewal cycle with an expiration date at the licensee's birth month. This allowed for consistency in renewal cycles throughout DOPL. She noted this legislation had no fiscal impact on the State General Fund, other State funds or expenditures, or local government. The bill did not change licensure fees. The only change was to the current renewal cycles. She went over the chart outlining the changes (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ricks** asked about feedback received from stakeholders. **Ms. Veseth** remarked there were concerns expressed about apprentices and that was why the roll out was scheduled for 2028 to make sure concerns were addressed. There was support for biennial renewals with some boards currently operating in this manner. **Senator Ricks** queried if fees were adjusted upward. **Ms. Veseth** indicated the fees had not changed. She explained the fees showed as double because of moving them from annual to biennial.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **H 505** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ricks** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 571 **DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES - Amends existing law to exempt certain subcontractors from licensure, to increase a dollar amount related to an exemption, and to eliminate a class of licensure.** **Representative Sauter** reported this legislation improved local government options when selecting contractors and sub-contractors for construction projects. By changing the project value amount requiring a Public Works contractor license from \$50,000 to \$100,000, more contractors could bid on small-scale local government projects without the need for a Public Works license. One class of Public Works licensing was eliminated as a result of this change. **Representative Sauter** explained this legislation caused no additional expenditure of funds at the State or local government and there was no fiscal impact. He yielded his time to Representative Wheeler. **Representative Wheeler** testified this bill added an

exemption and solved some of the similar issues for subcontractors, allowing for more leeway.

TESTIMONY: **Jeri DeLange**, Idaho Rural Water Association, testified in support of the bill. She stated this bill improved local government options.

Sean Schupack, Director of Government Affairs, Associated General Contractors, testified in support of the bill. He remarked some subcontractors had to drive hours to a job because there were no contractors licensed in a particular community.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **H 571** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 576 **SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITIES - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding rental agreements, the disposal of certain property, notice to lessees in default, and access restriction. Representative Vander Woude** explained this bill updated and amended Idaho Code §§ 55-2301, 55-2304, 55-2306, 55-2308, and 55-2309 relating to Self-Storage Facilities. The statute was amended during recent legislative sessions to adjust the use of commonly used practices in the self-storage industry. Amendments included definition updates and clarifying language for consumers and operators. **Representative Vander Woude** stated this legislation caused no additional expenditure of funds at the State or local level of government, and there was no fiscal impact.

Representative Vander Woude noted all proposed updates allowed operators to continue current business practices and to communicate with lessees in accordance with established statutes. He outlined some of the changes in statute. Those items were: 1) To allow agreements to be signed electronically. 2) The lessee was bound by the agreement if they continued to use the space, even when in default. He stated this legislation permitted self-storage owners to dispose of property left in the space after the end of the rental agreement. He stated the legislation clarified when a lessee was in default of disposing titled vehicles, the operator complied with Idaho Code. The legislation also expanded the right to tow to cover non-monetary defaults. Vehicles and trailers must be in operational order. He explained that this bill clarified when the lessee was in default of a rental agreement, they could be denied access to the leased space.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ricks** and **Representative Vander Woude** discussed the idea if a lessee did not sign the agreement, they were still liable for payment on the lease.

TESTIMONY: **Joseph Doherty**, Self-Storage Association, noted this bill allowed the owner to renew a lease under different terms. If the individual continued to use the space, they were bound by those terms.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ricks** and **Mr. Doherty** discussed the allowable methods of delivery of a rental agreement were via U.S. mail, certified mail, or email, and governed by the prior rental agreement.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **H 576** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 502

FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MORTICIANS - Amends existing law to provide for the respectful disposition of certain unclaimed human remains. **Representative Mickelsen** explained that currently Idaho Code was unclear about what mortuaries or crematoriums were allowed to do with unclaimed ashes. The purpose of this bill allowed for a respectful disposition of unclaimed ashes. **Representative Mickelsen** 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. There was no fiscal impact.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked what became of unclaimed ashes. **Representative Mickelsen** reported unclaimed ashes were left in a closet. Many had been there for 40 years because there was no legal way a mortuary could legally dispose of the ashes.

Chairman Cook asked what the options were for disposal of unclaimed ashes. **Representative Mickelsen** stated the ashes could be spread in a potter's field, sprinkled around rosebushes, or taken to the mountains. Ashes could not be disposed of in any water source. Mortuaries had to mark ashes for a period of ten years.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **H 502** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Cook** adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Senator Cook
Chair

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary