

MINUTES

HOUSE JUDICIARY, RULES & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 27, 2024

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

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:** None

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 8:00am.

MOTION: **Rep. Wroten** made a motion to approve the March 21, 2024 meeting minutes. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

H 746: **Chairman Skaug** and **Rep. Moyle** presented **H 746** regarding judicial compensation.

Committee inquired regarding clarification of judicial retirement and PERSI, inclusion of magistrate judges, justification of closing pay-gap between magistrate judges and district judges, feedback from judges, and diminished incentive for magistrate judges to become district judges.

MOTION: **Rep. Young** made a motion to send **H 746** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Don Burnett and **Jason Spillman**, Legal Counsel, Administrative Office of the Courts, testified **in opposition**.

Committee inquired regarding merit and selection of judges, clarification of process for filling vacancies, possible negative impacts, and clarification of contested elections and retention elections.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Chairman Skaug** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

S 1367: **Rep. Erickson** presented **S 1367** regarding public defense and indigent persons.

Director Eric Fredericksen, State Public Defender, testified **in support**.

Committee inquired regarding separate accounts and cases, federal funds, access to funds, necessity of legislation, reason for lack of use of available federal funds by counties, estimated savings to the state, and ability to operate without the proposed funds.

MOTION: **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to send **S 1367** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Erickson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:53am.

Representative Skaug
Chair

Nancy Conrad
Secretary