

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW05

MEMBERS: Chairman Holtzclaw, Vice Chairman Wisniewski, Representatives Weber, McCann, Cheatum, Healey, Beiswenger, Bruce, Burgoyne, Cayler, Fuhriman, Leavitt, Tanner(13), Egbert, 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 Holtzclaw called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Rep. Sauter provided an overview of the following three bills, stating they were brought forward by the Departments of Administration and Public Works. Changes were prompted by inflation in construction costs and they will speed up the process, lead to greater efficiency and less red tape for all parties involved.

H 50: **Rep. Sauter** presented **H 50**, which increases the limit for delegation of public works project management from \$300,000 to \$500,000. He emphasized the change will not give up state authority and oversight. Additionally, all projects must go through the same public works vetting processes, including inspections and reporting. He explained 19 projects could have been delegated over the past two years if the higher limit had been in place.

In answer to questions from the committee, **Rep. Sauter** explained delegation relates more to who is responsible for project management over a project rather than overseeing disbursement of funds. He then deferred questions from the committee to **Kelly Berard**, Deputy Administrator for the Division of Public Works. She explained agencies embarking on a project submit a project request, including the scope and budget, to the Permanent Building Fund. Projects over \$100,000 automatically go to Public Works for management, but currently they can request delegation up to \$300,000. If the project is delegated, the agency manages the entire process, but final reports must be filed and any unused funds must be returned.

MOTION: **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to send **H 50** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Sauter** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 52: **Rep. Sauter** presented **H 52**, which increases the project cost dollar limit from \$100,000 to \$200,000. He explained once a project exceeds the limit, the process changes from an informal bid to a formal written competitive bid. The bid limit has not been increased since 2005 and it will bring the bid limit in line with cities, counties and other local jurisdictions.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **H 52** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Sauter** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

- H 56:** **Rep. Sauter** presented **H 56**, which increases the project cost dollar limit from \$25,000 to \$50,000 before requiring a written competitive bid. He explained the dollar limit hasn't been increased since 2005 and it will make it consistent with the bid limit for political subdivisions.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Weber** made a motion to send **H 56** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Sauter** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Representative Holtzclaw
Chair

Wendy Carver-Herbert
Secretary