

MINUTES  
**SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 03, 2025

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Burtenshaw, Vice Chairman Hart, Senators Guthrie, Harris, Okuniewicz, Cook, VanOrden, Kohl, and Taylor

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**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 Burtenshaw** called the meeting of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Senator VanOrden** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Mike Roach** of Fairfield, Idaho to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to the floor with recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Vice Chairman Hart** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Ronald Davies** of Clayton, Idaho to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to the floor with recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**S 1003** **FISH AND GAME - Amends existing law to provide that certain persons shall not be eligible to apply for any fishing, hunting, or trapping licenses, tags, or permits.** **Senator Foreman** explained **S 1003** amended Idaho Code § 36-1402 to provide that any person with an outstanding fine for violations of Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) law was ineligible to apply for a hunting, fishing, or trapping license tag or permit until all fines were paid. This also applied to lifetime license certificate holders, but did not apply to violators with approved payment plans that were not 90 days or more in arrears. Under this legislation, anyone ineligible to apply for a hunting, fishing, or trapping license who attempted to purchase or renew a hunting, fishing, or trapping license would be committing a misdemeanor. **Mr. Foreman** explained some of how licence sellers would know purchasers were ineligible, and how fines were collected. He noted this proposed change was well coordinated with the enforcement branch of IDFG.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Cook** asked how IDFG would identify lifetime certificate holders with outstanding fines. **Mr. Foreman** explained that lifetime certificate holders had to renew their licence every year even when they had a lifetime certificate. **Chairman Burtenshaw** asked if there would be a difference between a hunting license versus a deer tag or a duck stamp. **Mr. Foreman** responded that any State issued license permit or tag would be flagged under this system. **Senator Cook** asked if he had to have a hunting licence before he could apply for a special elk hunt. **Greg Wooten**, Chief of Enforcement, IDGF, responded that in order for an individual to apply for a controlled hunt or special permit, they had to have a hunting license. **Senator Cook** asked if Senator Foreman was correct on the lifetime license renewals. **Mr. Wooten** confirmed that lifetime certificates expired every year on December 31 and they required renewal, but the renewal was at no cost. This was to document Idaho residency and determine if the licence holder paid resident or nonresident fees.

In response to multiple questions from **Senator Okuniewicz** regarding how citations in various stages of appeal would work with this legislation, **Mr. Wooten** explained that individuals remained eligible to obtain a license while they were going through a court process. He stated after the court made a formal judgement, IDFG would allow 45 days for an individual to appeal that judgement before they took any action. **Senator Okuniewicz** asked if other mechanisms to collect outstanding fines were tried and why they were unsuccessful. **Mr. Wooten** explained that IDFG had to collect fines from 44 separate county courts and they did not have the manpower to file and, as required by most, appear in person to testify. He explained IDFG had an internal collection process where they sent three different notifications on three different months. The first two were invoices, and the third was a notification that the violator would be sent to collections. This was followed by a letter from the Attorney General's office.

**Senator Kohl** asked if the 45 day waiting period was stipulated in Idaho Code, or if that was an agency policy. **Mr. Wooten** responded that all misdemeanors in the State required a 45 day appeal period. **Senator Kohl** asked if every fine categorized in this legislation was a misdemeanor or more, or could there be lesser fines. **Mr. Wooten** responded that Idaho Code included a list of infractions and felonies, and everything else was a misdemeanor. **Senator Guthrie** asked if there was any effort to collect interest or additional penalties for the money in arrears beyond the original citation amount. **Mr. Wooten** responded that collection companies charged more than the original fine, and this was how they made their money. **Senator Okuniewicz** asked if IDFG was paid by the collections agency up front or when they collected the fine. **Mr. Wooten** explained that when the collections company was paid, they forwarded the amount of the original fine to IDFG and took their payment off the top. **Senator Guthrie** asked if the collection agency forwarded the entire amount of the original fine to IDFG. **Mr. Wooten** responded that they did.

**TESTIMONY:** **Nick Fasciano**, Executive Director, Idaho Wildlife Federation, and **Ellary Tucker Williams**, Legislative and Community Engagement Coordinator, IDFG, testified in favor of **S 1003**.

**MOTION:** **Senator Taylor** moved to send **S 1003** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Vice Chairman Hart** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Okuniewicz** and **Senator Kohl** requested that they be recorded as voting nay.

**HCR 3** **NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES STUDY - States findings of the Legislature and authorizes the Legislative Council to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of natural resource issues.** **Representative Raybould** explained this legislation reauthorized the Interim Resources Committee. This was the committee that dealt with resource issues between legislative sessions. This committee required reauthorization every two years.

**MOTION:** **Senator Okuniewicz** moved to send **HCR 3** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Cook** asked what success would look like for this committee. **Representative Raybould** responded this committee dealt with the more difficult issues involving Idaho's natural resources. The committee was successful when they were able to identify issues that might need more targeted attention than legislators could provide during the legislative session, and were prepared when the Legislature was back in session to address those issues.

**VOICE VOTE:** The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Guthrie** moved to approve the **Minutes of January 8, 2025**. **Senator Okuniewicz** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES  
APPROVAL:**

**Vice Chairman Hart** moved to approve the **Minutes of January 13, 2025**.  
**Senator VanOrden** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:**

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

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Senator Burtenshaw  
Chair

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Shelly Johnson  
Secretary