

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 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:** Representative(s) Beiswenger

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.

MOTION: **Rep. Egbert** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2025, January 29, 2025 and February 3, 2025 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 66: **Rep. Skaug** presented **H 66**, which will allow the Idaho Industrial Commission to use the same process as allowed in other states to deliver notice of service via regular mail, email or fax instead of certified mail. He stated those who represent themselves will still receive notification via certified mail.

MOTION: **Rep. Weber** made a motion to send **H 66** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Skaug will sponsor the bill on the floor.**

H 67: **Rep. Skaug** presented **H 67**, which increases the burial cost limit from \$6,000 to \$10,000 for employees who die on the job. He emphasized these costs are paid by employers and not the state. He said the only complaint about the legislation is it is not nearly enough to cover these expenses.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **H 67** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

John Hughes, Idaho AFL-CIO testified **in support** of **H 67**, stating the burial benefits help bridge the gap for working families. It will allow them to focus on what matters most – honoring their loved ones and supporting each other – rather than dealing with a financial burden.

In answer to a question from the committee, **Rep. Skaug** deferred to **Patti Vaughn**, Benefits Administration Manager for the Idaho Industrial Commission. She explained the commission referred to data from the Worker's Compensation Research Institute and met with the Idaho Funeral Services Association to determine the \$10,000 limit was reasonable when looking at burial and cremation costs, and what other states are paying. A good majority of states are paying at least \$10,000 for burial costs.

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

- H 64:** **Rep. Bruce** presented **H 64**, and stated the purpose of the amendment is to reinforce statute with the intent of holding all responsible parties accountable for ensuring worker's compensation insurance is obtained. Ambiguity in the statute results in inconsistent application. The bill specifically identifies a "member" of an LLC as liable.
- In answer to questions from the committee, **Rep. Bruce** deferred to **Claire Sharp**, Commissioner, Idaho Industrial Commission. She stated more than half the cases investigated in 2024 were LLCs. There has been some push back from businesses because the statute is not clear, so they are trying to avoid bad court precedent by clarifying both a member and manager are responsible for obtaining worker's compensation insurance.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Achilles** made a motion to send **H 64** to floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Bruce will sponsor the bill on the floor.**
- H 65:** **Rep. Bruce** presented **H 65**, which moves the definition of "member of an employer's family" to the definition section of Idaho Code 72-102. He explained it will ensure consistency in how the definition is applied across all sections of Title 72.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **H 65** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Bruce will sponsor the bill on the floor.**
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Representative Holtzclaw
Chair

Wendy Carver-Herbert
Secretary