

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 13, 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) McCann, Healey, Bruce
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 February 11, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
H 160: **Rep. Tanner (14)** presented **H 160**. He explained there is interest in allowing non-state public agencies to seek worker's compensation insurance coverage in the open market without bonding through the state treasurer. This bill creates an opportunity to try this with speciality districts such as fire and sewer, among others, except school districts. He stated there are insurers targeting specialty niches such as fire departments who can offer competitive rates and specialty services. The five-year sunset clause will allow time to see if this will work without negatively impacting the State Insurance Fund (SIF).
In answer to questions from the committee, **Rep. Tanner (14)** explained some insurers are able to offer better rates than SIF because they have a very large, national base of customers, creating a large rating pool to draw from. He confirmed smaller districts will be able to stay with SIF, or secure insurance with another company.
Rep. Weber declared Rule 80 because he is a member of the State Insurance Fund board.
MOTION: **Rep. Weber** made a motion to send **H 160** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Tanner (14)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
Chairman Holtzclaw put the committee at ease.
Chairman Holtzclaw recognized and thanked the committee Page, **Lincoln Hendricks** for his outstanding service.
Chairman Holtzclaw resumed the meeting.
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