MINUTES

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT & TAXATION COMMITTEE

DATE:	Thursday, March 13, 2025
TIME:	2:00 P.M.
PLACE:	Room WW53
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Chairman Ricks, Vice Chairman Adams, Senators Grow, Anthon, Bernt, Den Hartog, Toews, Bearg (Rabe), 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 Ricks** called the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee (Committee) to order at 2:13 p.m.
S 1143	**BUILDING CODES - Adds to existing law to provide for the publishing of building permit requirements and timely review of applications.** This item was removed from the agenda.
H 354	**PROPERTY TAXES - Amends existing law to revise provisions related to the assessment of market value and the homestead exemption. Representative Manwaring** presented **H 354**. He stated that this legislation made two changes related to property taxes. First, it provided that, in a property tax appeal, the burden of proof shifted from the taxpayer to the county assessor if the increase in assessed value exceeded ten percent of the value from the previous year, and the increase resulted, at least in part, from the assessor failing to use the required equalization methods. Second, it required county assessors and the Idaho State Tax Commission (ISTC), when a property became eligible for the homeowner's exemption or was no longer eligible after the April 15th deadline for applying for the homeowner's exemption, to implement the homeowner's exemption by applying a new formula: levy rates multiplied by the value of the home, either with or without the homeowner's exemption, multiplied by the days of ownership, divided by 365 or 366 days during leap year.
DISCUSSION:	**Chairman Ricks** asked Representative Manwaring to provide more information regarding the ranges of assessment on page one. **Representative Manwaring** explained that ISTC had been applying this statewide to counties based on the median assessed and median ratio of market value. This bill addressed a situation such as Bannock County had a few years ago. They were below the median market ratios. A new assessor came in and raised the assessment on thousands of properties.
TESTIMONY:	**Sara Westbrook**, Idaho Association of Counties, testified in support of **H 354**. She stated that this bill provided a good solution to a real problem. They appreciated that the homeowner's exemption was applied when the owner qualified and was not applied when the owner did not qualify.
DISCUSSION:	**Senator Grow** noted that Ms. Westbrook had stated that the bill focused on when the proration of the homeowner's exemption was turned on and asked if it specified when it was turned off. **Ms. Westbrook** responded that it did.
TESTIMONY:	**Max Pond**, Government Affairs Director for Idaho Realtors, testified in support of **H 354** and echoed the comments of Ms. Westbrook.

MOTION: **Senator Toews** moved to send **H 354** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Ricks** adjourned the meeting of the Committee at 2:26 p.m.

Senator Ricks
Chair

Meg Lawless
Secretary