

MINUTES
SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 22, 2026

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Foreman, Senators Lakey, Guthrie, Bernt, Zito, Ward-Engelking, and Ruchti

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Vice Chairman Lenney and Senator Nichols

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

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Bernt** moved to approve the Minutes of January 20, 2026. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE: **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Hyatt Erstad, to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board (IHIEB).**

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send the Gubernatorial Reappointment of **Hyatt Erstad** to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Appointment of Cynthia Fairfax, to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board (IHIEB).**

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send the Gubernatorial Appointment of **Cynthia Fairfax** to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Bernt** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE: **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Janice Fulkerson, to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board (IHIEB).**

MOTION: **Senator Bernt** moved to send the Gubernatorial Reappointment of **Janice Fulkerson** to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Nora Carpenter of Boise, Idaho, to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board (IHIEB), to serve a term commencing January 1, 2026 and expiring April 10, 2029. Ms. Carpenter** stated she was a lifelong Idahoan and non-profit executive. She remarked the appointment was an honor and that she looked forward to serving Idaho's citizens.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Foreman** indicated the vote on the appointment would take place at the next meeting.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:

Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Salvador Cruz of Boise, Idaho, as Director of the Department of Finance (DOF), to serve a term commencing December 18, 2026. Mr. Cruz presented his professional background, outlined the DOF's duties and funding structure, and described key challenges, including financial scams and rapid growth in financial services.

DISCUSSION:

Committee members posed questions regarding Mr. Cruz's move to Idaho and his vision for the DOF, which he addressed. **Chairman Foreman** indicated the vote on the appointment would take place at the next meeting.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT:

Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Gregory Donaca of Eagle, Idaho, to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board (IHIEB), for a term commencing April 10, 2025 and expiring April 10, 2029. Mr. Donaca summarized his experience as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Delta Dental, a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), and a Your Health Idaho (YHI) Board Member as treasurer. **Mr. Donaca** expressed appreciation for the representation of oral health on the YHI Board.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Foreman indicated the vote on the appointment would take place at the next meeting.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Foreman** adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Senator Foreman
Chair

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary