

MINUTES
SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT & TAXATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 02, 2016
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
PLACE: Room WW53
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Siddoway, Vice Chairman Guthrie, Senators Johnson, Rice, Vick, Bayer, Stennett and Burgoyne
ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator McKenzie
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 Siddoway** called the meeting of the Local Government and Taxation Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.
MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Burgoyne** moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2016. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Bayer** moved to approve the minutes of January 19, 2016. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
S 1211 **Chairman Siddoway** welcomed Senator Dan Schmidt to the podium to introduce **S 1211**.

Senator Schmidt presented **S 1211**, which amends Idaho Code § 31-3517 to authorize reimbursement for travel expenses for county commissioners who are members of the Catastrophic Health Care Cost Program Board (Board). Senator Schmidt pointed out that this section of code change was voted on during the last legislative session but it did not pass the House; only a small section of that code change is currently before the Committee. The Board consists of six county commissioners, four legislators, the Director of the Department of Health and Welfare and a Gubernatorial appointee. **Senator Schmidt** stated that county commissioners are currently not compensated for their travel, noting that the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) will not reimburse travel expenses because such action is not clearly outlined in statute.

Senator Johnson commented that notwithstanding the Board contract with the IAC that does allow for travel reimbursement, he does support this legislation.

Chairman Siddoway also recognized that the contract permits reimbursement for travel and expressed concern that the money budgeted for the Catastrophic Health Care Cost Account (CAT Fund) be utilized to protect the health and welfare of Idaho's citizens. Even though the amount requested is relatively small, funds redirected for travel reimbursement are no longer available for citizens in need. The Chairman sought assurance that the money will be spent in a manner consistent with the mission of the program. **Senator Schmidt** explained the administrative costs that are paid out of the CAT Fund to the IAC, which handles the bulk of administrative work, and acknowledged that those funds will not be available for patient care costs. He commented that travel expenses fall under the same category of administrative costs.

Chairman Siddoway asked how many meetings are held per year and if funding affects attendance at those meetings. **Senator Schmidt** responded that commissioners from larger counties have more of a presence on the Board due to larger county budgets, while commissioners from smaller counties typically phone in, resulting in underrepresentation of these counties.

Senator Stennett sought confirmation regarding how commissioners are compensated and if commissioners from rural counties are at a disadvantage due to funding issues. **Senator Schmidt** did not comment on how commissioners are compensated but stated that it is the responsibility of the respective county to pay for travel.

MOTION: **Senator Johnson** moved to send **S 1211** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Vice Chairman Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Burgoyne** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Linda Pike to the Idaho Board of Tax Appeals to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Vice Chairman Guthrie** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of David E. Kinghorn to the Idaho Board of Tax Appeals to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Vick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Senator Rice** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of Leland G. Heinrich to the Idaho Board of Tax Appeals to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Bayer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Siddoway** adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Senator Siddoway
Chair

Jennifer Carr
Secretary