

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 18, 2019
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room WW55
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Harris, Senators Hill, Winder, Vick, Anthon, Souza, Stennett, and Buckner-Webb
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: **Chairwoman Lodge** called the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:04 a.m.
GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **The Gubernatorial Appointment** of Thomas J. Wilford to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board.

Mr. Wilford, recent appointee to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board, stated he applied because he had a long history of experience with investments. **Mr. Wilford** said he was employed by the J. A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation for 25 years where he managed the investment portfolio from its inception, including the selection and monitoring of investment managers. He also serves on the Board of the Idaho Defense Alliance.

Senator Winder asked Mr. Wilford for information about his Certified Public Accounting (CPA) background. **Mr. Wilford** said he sat for his CPA examination after graduate school at the University of Minnesota during which time he was also serving in the Air Force. **Mr. Wilford** provided further information regarding continuing education, his experience in preparing income tax forms, and educating people about the new tax laws.

Chairwoman Lodge thanked Mr. Wilford for his service and announced that the Committee would vote at the next meeting.

RS 27133 **REQUEST FROM THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** for changes in the Highway Distribution Account.

Senator Bert Brackett, District 23, explained this legislation would transition the Idaho State Police (ISP) off the Highway Distribution Account (Account), which comes from the gas tax. The ISP can only use these funds for specific purposes and it is difficult to qualify those projects. Currently, the distribution of the Account is: 57 percent to the state; 38 percent to locals; and 5 percent to ISP. The 5 percent going to ISP would be phased out over a 5-year period beginning in fiscal year 2021.

Senator Stennett asked why this legislation is so late and why are we hearing it again; there was a similar bill earlier that didn't pass. **Senator Brackett** said the concerns raised in discussions for the earlier bill may have been addressed in this bill.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Harris** moved to send **RS 27133** to print. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Stennett** requested to be recorded as voting nay.

PRESENTATION: REPORT ON IDAHO STATE MUSEUM:

Idaho State Museum Update - Janet Gallimore, Director, Idaho State Museum
Audience Survey and Educational Impact - Dr. Gloria Totoricagüena

Ms. Gallimore explained that the Idaho State Museum (Museum), the country's newest state museum, reopened October 18, 2018, 68 years after the first Julia Davis Park facility greeted visitors in 1950. The vision was to create a museum that would be a fun, interactive learning experience where people of all ages and backgrounds could explore the story of Idaho.

Ms. Gallimore explained that the renovation resulted in world class displays covering 15,000 square feet of exhibitions. This work included architectural design and all things related to construction, design fabrication and installation for the exhibits, creating a storyline, and exhibition content that would ensure the story of Idaho would resonate across the state. They secured public financing as well as private fund raising; they exceeded their commitment to the Governor and Legislature by raising \$4.3 million in private funds. Many volunteers participated in making this endeavor a success; many were Mountain Home Airbase volunteers. **Ms. Gallimore** provided a detailed description about the process (attachment 1 and attachment 1-a).

Dr. Totoricagüena, President/Owner, Idaho Policy and Consulting, introduced herself as a recovering academic who doesn't teach school anymore but is a researcher. She earned her Ph.D. from the London School of Economics and British training is all about data methodology. After teaching for 20 years, **Dr. Totoricagüena** returned to Idaho and built her own consulting firm to establish research projects that would inform public policy makers. She was contacted by the Idaho State Historical Society to create a research project with methodology that would include people from around the state. Present day expectations for museums and historical societies are much more extensive than in the past. Then, the experience was much more passive, using photos and artifacts. Now the experience is more about interaction, emotion, input, and interactivity.

Dr. Totoricagüena reported that she and Ms. Gallimore traveled the state to gather information from people on content, design, and expectations. They gathered both quantitative data that was anonymous and qualitative data where people could speak. A massive database was created. They engaged over 1,000 people around the state geographically. Once the Museum opened, additional data was gathered from its visitors. The time frame was from October, 2018 to January, 2019; 15,000 people visited the Museum and they sampled 748 people who were Idaho, national, and international participants. From that data, information was developed to show who attended the Museum, age groups, where they came from, what they liked best, how they felt about the Museum, if they would come back again, and much, much more. She went through the results of the exit interviews and ratings and gave a thorough report (attachment 2).

Senator Winder commented that one of the tribes had some angst and hostility and asked if there has been any effort to deal with those issues. **Dr. Totoricagüena** stated that she has been making presentations to the Council on Indian Affairs. **Ms. Gallimore** added that the Governor made a presentation to the chairman of one of the tribes to alleviate some of the concerns.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Senator Lodge, Chair

Twyla Melton, Secretary