

MINUTES  
**HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 01, 2021

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW05

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Holtzclaw, Vice Chairman Syme, Representatives Harris, Kingsley, Christensen, Giddings, Wisniewski, Horman, Hanks, von Ehlinger, Weber, Chew, Necochea, Toone

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** Don Drum, PERSI; Knute Sandahl, DOI/SFM; Anja Sundali PFFI; Grant Hamilton, PFFI; Rob Shoplock, PFFI; Dean Cameron, DOI

**Chairman Holtzclaw** called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

**S 1009:** **Rep. Syme** presented **S 1009** to the Committee stating it would put the Fire Marshal under the definition of firefighter in code this would give them the same access to PERSI as firefighters as well. He stated this is necessary as Fire Marshals are exposed to most of the same dangers as firefighters and as such deserve the same benefits. This legislation also puts Fire Marshals under Rule of 80 like firefighters instead of Rule of 90 in regards to retirement age under PERSI. The impact to PERSI would be minimal as there are only a few fire marshals in Idaho.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Weber** made a motion to send **S 1009** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to Committee questions **Rep. Syme** explained there are about eight thousand firefighters covered by PERSI in Idaho and this legislation is seeking to add six fire marshals to the definition of firefighter. He stated the fire marshals are exposed to the same dangers and mental stress as firefighters and actually see more fatalities. This has lead to an issue of not being able to hire Idahoans for these critical jobs and the extension of benefits would help attract good employees. He stated there has been extensive research on the fiscal note and detailed exactly how the change would impact early retirement eligibility under the Rule of 80. He clarified the firefighters currently pay for the Rule of 80 themselves which lessens the impact to the general fund even further.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep Syme** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 1:39 PM.

---

Representative Holtzclaw  
Chair

---

Emma Wall  
Secretary