

MINUTES
SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 07, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Cook, Senators Lakey, Guthrie, Ricks, Foreman, Hartgen, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, and Ruchti

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

Chairman Cook stated that since not every presenter was there, he moved **H 490** to the beginning of the agenda.

H 490 **DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES - Amends existing law to provide for certain fingerprint and criminal history background checks.** **Katie Stuart**, Bureau Chief, Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL), stated this bill allowed the DOPL administrator, unless otherwise prohibited by law or rule, to conduct fingerprint criminal background checks as a requirement for licensure and registration, revised language concerning fingerprinting to align the procedures employed by the various boards and commissions governed by DOPL, and simplified the fingerprinting process for applicants. She explained this legislation was anticipated to have no impact on the State's General Fund or any dedicated fund or federal fund.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lenney** queried why was an additional step added for counselors and therapists that did not exist. **Ms. Stuart** stated compact licensure was streamlined. A majority of the other occupations that had the compact were allowed to work in multiple states with compact privileges.

MOTION: **Senator Hartgen** moved to send **H 490** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1390 **EDUCATION - Amends existing law to revise the definition of "in-demand careers" for the Idaho Launch Grant program.** **Senator Lent** explained this legislation updated the definition of "in-demand careers" to establish additional criteria for weighing economic output and mobility. Factors included but were not limited to the number of openings, rate of growth, skill transferability, length of program training, and wage potential. In addition, any in-demand careers that required more than a bachelor's degree were excluded from grant consideration. This amendment caused no additional expenditure of funds at the State or local level of government, nor did it cause an increase or decrease in revenue for State or local government.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lakey** remarked the bill narrowed the scope. **Senator Lent** stated that was exactly right.

MOTION: **Senator Hartgen** moved to send **S 1390** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senators Foreman** and **Lenney** voted nay.

S 1375

NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR LICENSURE - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding voluntary naturopathic doctor licensure. **Senator Anthon** reported this legislation made minor corrections to the voluntary naturopathic doctor dual licensure statute. It clarified the postdoctorate training required to obtain voluntary licensure and prevented policy overlap with other naturopathic licensure statutes. This bill expanded the educational requirements to reflect actual training programs available to professionals seeking dual licensure in Idaho. **Senator Anthon** stated this legislation did not change the underlying doctorate licensure requirement or the requirement that the underlying license must remain active and in good standing.

Senator Anthon remarked the only anticipated fiscal impact was positive. These changes allowed the Division of Professional and Occupational Licenses (DOPL) to begin licensing those individuals seeking licensure, increasing DOPL revenue.

TESTIMONY: **Dr. Joann Yanez**, Executive Director, Association of Accredited Naturopathic Medical Colleges (AANMC), testified in opposition to the bill. She noted the language in this bill potentially jeopardized the safety of the citizens of Idaho. She referred to a letter she sent to the Committee (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: **Senator Foreman** asked Dr. Yanez to cite how the bill undermined the standards. **Dr. Yanez** stated this bill circumvented the accredited postgraduate courses and the National Licensing Exam.

TESTIMONY: **Ken McClure**, Idaho Medical Association, testified in opposition to the bill. He remarked this bill allowed someone who had not had any training from an accredited program to become licensed. He was not aware of any other health care program like this. He stated the bar would be lower than for any other health care profession.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Foreman** queried what made Mr. McClure think the bar was lower than for any other health care profession. **Mr. McClure** noted few learned from the past history of this type of legislation. Individuals tried to obtain licensing and had chosen not to go through a licensing program, but wanted the benefits as though they had completed the program.

Senator Anthon stated he heard the phrase "no training." He explained a naturopathic doctor must already have a license in Idaho. He pointed to the language in the bill. An applicant must have a doctor's degree and completed an accredited or equivalent program in naturopathy. There were people in Idaho who had no training and did not complete a program.

MOTION: **Senator Foreman** moved to send **S 1390** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ricks** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 590

COMMUNITY RESIDENT ASSOCIATIONS - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding certain notices to community resident associations. **Senator Toews** explained the purpose of this legislation was to change notifications to mobile home community associations (Association) when the owner intended to sell their property. **Senator Toews** stated this legislation caused no additional expenditure of funds at the State or local level of government, nor did it cause an increase or decrease in revenue for State or local government. He mentioned the dynamics were what warranted these changes. Sales were often not listed and were done outside of the normal real estate listing process.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ricks** asked for clarification of the changes and why. **Senator Toews** explained it was difficult to move a mobile home that had been stationary for a long time. Currently the property owner could decide to sell and had to notify the Association if the property was listed and there was a signed agreement. An investor could bypass the whole process. The change in this bill simply asked that the Association be notified by the owner 15 days prior to signing an agreement to sell. **Senator Ricks** queried if the owner wanted to sell the property without a realtor, did that require a 15-day notification. **Senator Toews** stated the Association had to be notified and they could not slow down the sale. This legislation provided an option to have a seat at the table to make an offer. **Senator Ricks** expressed a concern that the State was interfering in a contract. **Senator Toews** reported this legislation protected the owners of personal property as this was a unique situation.

Senator Foreman asked for clarification if the State had the authority to enforce the requirements in this legislation. He noted some older mobile homes could not be moved due to age.

Senator Lakey expressed a concern about interference. **Senator Toews** stated a property could sit on the market for six months. An offer could be sooner or later as these were often large contracts.

Senator Ricks asked if there was a specific instance where this was a problem. **Senator Toews** explained there were scenarios where Associations did not have the opportunity to make an offer on a property. New owners increased rent two or three times what the mobile home renters were paying.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** moved to send **H 590** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion.

TESTIMONY: **Representative Price** testified in support of this bill. She said this issue was brought forward in her district. The thought was that this helped in the affordable housing arena. An Association had a seat at the table by being notified.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ruchti** stated he previously was reluctant, but a mobile home was personal property and people's homes. He stated that it seemed these people should have some leeway and this change in legislation was warranted. This was a light touch.

Senator Ricks stated he was not in support of the motion. The legislation had good intentions and he understood those who owned a home on someone else's property. He explained that a 15-day notice was a long time when trying to make a quick sale.

Senator Foreman reported he was in opposition to the bill because he did not like government interfering.

Senator Hartgen remarked she was in support of the bill. The role of government was already in statute.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to send **H 590** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation carried by **voice vote**. **Senators Foreman, Ricks,** and **Lenney** voted nay.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Cook** adjourned the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

Senator Cook
Chair

Linda Kambeitz
Secretary