

MINUTES
SENATE JUDICIARY & RULES COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, April 02, 2024

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lakey, Vice Chairman Foreman, Senators Lee, Ricks, and Hartgen

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Anthon, Hart, Wintrow, Shea (Ruchti)

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 Lakey** called the meeting of the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee (Committee) to order at 9:12 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Foreman** moved to approve the Minutes of February 9, 2024. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Hartgen moved to approve the Minutes of March 13, 2024. **Senator Foreman** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Ricks moved to approve the Minutes of March 18, 2024. **Senator Foreman** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 746

JUDICIAL COMPENSATION - Provision regarding the Salary of the Justices of the Supreme Court and Amends existing law to provide that certain Judges and Magistrate Judges shall be eligible to receive a Bonus upon Retirement. **Senator Lee** introduced **H 746**. She explained this legislation was the final iteration of a series of bills relating to pay increases for judges. **H 746** gave a three percent increase in salary to the judges. It also added a \$25,000 incentive if a judge gave a one year notice of retirement. **Senator Lee** added this would incentivize the retirement to get to the next election cycle and it signaled to good candidates that a vacancy was opening.

Jason Slade Spillman, Legal Counsel, Administrative Office of the Court, thanked the Committee for working with the courts and for the positive relationship the two parties shared. **Mr. Spillman** reminded the Committee that this was the third time Idaho judges had their pay increase attached to financial incentives. The Court objected to combining salary increases with other items in the same bill. He added they felt the \$25,000 incentive would not alleviate recruitment issues and it was demoralizing to the current serving judges.

Chairman Lakey stated it had been a challenge to negotiate the increase because there were two houses involved. **Mr. Spillman** said he recognized the process could be challenging.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Foreman** moved to send **H 746** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Hartgen** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Hartgen** stated she looked forward to the time when judges did not have to beg for a raise. **Chairman Lakey** added Idaho judicial positions needed to be more financially competitive and felt **H 746** may help to a degree.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lakey** adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Senator Lakey
Chair

Sharon Pennington
Secretary