

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 09, 2022

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Guthrie, Senators Winder, Anthon, Harris, Heider, Stennett, and Burgoyne

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Lee

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 meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:06 a.m.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **THE GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT** of Joni Stright to the Idaho Lottery Commission.

Jeff Anderson, Director, Idaho Lottery Commission (ILC), came to the podium to introduce Joni Stright. **Director Anderson** described the backgrounds of several current and former commissioners. He stated it was helpful to have a variety of experience represented on the ILC. **Director Anderson** said another commissioner recommended Ms. Stright. He reviewed Ms. Stright's business career.

Joni Stright introduced herself to the Committee. She gave an overview of her background, family, education, professional experience, and journey to Idaho. She said she came from a family of educators. **Ms. Stright** advised she became interested in joining the ILC after learning more about the position from a good friend who served as an ILC commissioner. She stated her nonprofit experience and financial acumen would be helpful to the ILC.

Senator Burgoyne observed that the ILC seemed to be a more enjoyable appointment than other boards.

Chairwoman Lodge thanked Ms. Stright for her enthusiasm. She announced that the Committee would vote on Ms. Stright's appointment at its next regular meeting.

H 476 **RELATING TO THE IDAHO YOUTH CHALLENGE PROGRAM** to amend existing law to revise provisions regarding the governing board and to provide for eligibility requirements.

Major Steve Stokes, General Counsel, Idaho Military Division (IMD), introduced himself to the Committee. **Major Stokes** explained the proposed legislation would (1) clarify the recommending and appointing authority for the Youth Challenge Academy (YCA) governing board; and (2) move student eligibility criteria from administrative rule to statute. **Major Stokes** explained the purpose of the YCA. He noted the YCA had graduated hundreds of students.

DISCUSSION: **Chairwoman Lodge** expressed her opinion that a longer program would be helpful to keep students from slipping back when they returned to their home environments. She noted great improvement in students she mentored. **Major Stokes** said he would take that feedback back to the adjutant general.

Senator Stennett inquired about the YCA selection criteria. **Major Stokes** replied that the YCA was a program for troubled youth who had dropped out of traditional school. He advised a steering committee reviewed the applications, taking into account the risk factors set forth in the administrative rule. He noted the program provided military-type structure and group activities to teach self-discipline.

Vice Chairman Guthrie said the criteria for admission were stated in a negative fashion. He asked if it would be necessary to quit school to be eligible for the program. He wondered if the selection committee could use more discretion in admitting students. **Major Stokes** replied that the program was a joint effort of the federal and state governments. He said the federal government specified the criteria and at-risk elements. The YCA was required to use those criteria to obtain federal funding.

Senator Burgoyne inquired if the reason for moving the criteria from administrative rule to statute was that the federal criteria were inflexible. **Major Stokes** pointed out that the bill included a provision to allow for consideration of other criteria. He said this would accommodate any future changes in federal regulations without the need to bring new legislation.

Chairwoman Lodge related an anecdote reflecting a student success story. She expressed appreciation for the YCA program because it taught discipline to help students succeed and build character.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Guthrie** moved to send **H 476** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 477 **RELATING TO THE MILITARY** to amend existing law to revise terminology.

Major Nate Peterson, Brigade Judge Advocate, 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team, IMD, introduced himself to the Committee. **Major Peterson** stated the bill would update multiple sections of Idaho Code relating to the Idaho National Guard (ING). He explained the changes would add feminine pronouns and other references to women serving in the ING. He provided statistics on women serving in various branches of the Idaho military. **Major Peterson** mentioned several accomplishments of Idaho military women.

MOTION: **Senator Stennett** moved to send **H 477** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Burgoyne** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Burgoyne** commented he had encouraged the Legislative Services Office for many years to use inclusive terminology. He was told that was not part of the style manual and could not be done. He suggested wearing a military uniform was necessary to implement the change. He said the bill was an important piece of legislation.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to send **H 477** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation carried by **voice vote**.

H 478 **RELATING TO THE MILITARY DIVISION** to amend existing law to authorize the Military Division to charge and receive payment for expenses incurred in providing services to units of state government.

Lieutenant Colonel Lauren Tschample, Staff Judge Advocate, Idaho Air National Guard, introduced herself to the Committee. **Lieutenant Colonel Tschample** explained the legislation would authorize the IMD to continue to bill other state agencies for certain services. She noted the IMD's Public Safety Communications group installed communication equipment and microwave services in emergency and first responder vehicles statewide.

Chairwoman Lodge asked if the bill would allow the IMD to utilize its helicopters for law enforcement or rescue services. **Lieutenant Colonel Tschample** responded no.

Vice Chairman Guthrie inquired if the IMD currently charged for installation services. **Lieutenant Colonel Tschample** responded yes. She added the bill would move the current authorization language from administrative rule to statute.

MOTION;

Senator Stennett moved to send **H 478** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Senator Lodge
Chair

Twyla Melton
Secretary

Jeanne Jackson-Heim
Assistant Secretary