

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, January 12, 2024

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Bernt, Senators Winder, Anthon, Harris, Lee, Toews, and Wintrow

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Senator 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 Guthrie** called the meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

**WELCOME:** **Chairman Guthrie** welcomed all to the Committee meeting.

**INTRODUCTION:** **Introduction of Committee Members.** **Chairman Guthrie** stated that the Committee was a leadership committee and requested that the members introduce themselves to the Committee Secretary and those in the room. **Senator Wintrow** stated she was the Minority Leader. This was her tenth year serving and she represented District 19. She focused on victims of sexual and domestic violence.  
**Senator Toews** stated he represented District 4. This was his first term, second session. He served as Vice Chairman of the Education Committee and served on the Transportation Committee. He enjoyed working on issues related to education and families with children.  
**Vice Chairman Bernt** stated that he was from Meridian. This was his first term. He also served on the Local Government and Taxation Committee.  
**Chairman Guthrie** stated that he also served on the Commerce and Human Resources Committee as well as the Resources and Environment Committee. He was from District 28 and farmed and ranched in that area. **Senator Lee** stated she represented District 9. She remarked that she was the Assistant Majority Leader and also an administrator at Treasure Valley Community College in Oregon. This was her tenth year in the Senate.  
**Senator Harris** stated that he served District 35. He worked as a rancher and stated that it was an honor to serve in the Legislature.  
**Senator Anthon** stated that he represented District 27. He lived on a family farm and was involved in potato processing. He mentioned that he was an attorney and taught law.  
**Senator Winder** reported that he was the Senate President Pro Tempore and represented District 20. His district experienced significant growth. He stated that the Committee consisted of the Senate leadership and addressed difficult issues. He commended the Senators for their participation.

**INTRODUCTION:** **Introduction of the New Secretary - Peggy Caraway.** **Chairman Guthrie** introduced the new Committee Secretary, Peggy Caraway, and asked her to tell the Committee about herself. **Ms. Caraway** stated this was her first year working in the Senate. She worked as an electrical engineer and telecommunications manager early in her career. She left industry to homeschool her two sons. Both sons worked as engineers. She served in volunteer positions in Washington and Idaho, including as a board member on her neighborhood association. She stated that this position was her first entry back into the workforce, and she was looking forward to the opportunity.

**INTRODUCTION:** **Introduction of the New Page - Liberty McGuire.** **Chairman Guthrie** introduced the new Committee Page, Liberty McGuire, and asked her to tell the Committee about herself. **Ms. McGuire** stated she was from Meridian. She noted that she attended Renaissance High School and played rugby for Rocky Mountain High School. She also shared that she enjoyed art and outdoor activities and that she participated in Girl Scouts.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Winder** asked Ms. McGuire what were her plans after high school. **Ms. McGuire** stated she hoped to finish her bachelor's degree. She shared that her dream was to travel the world as a motivational speaker. **Chairman Guthrie** asked Ms. McGuire if she had any questions for the Senators. **Ms. McGuire** asked Senator Wintrow at what moment she knew she was meant to serve in the Legislature. **Senator Wintrow** stated that during her second session she realized her background working with victims of sexual assault enabled her to pass legislation to address this problem. **Chairman Guthrie** recognized the diverse Committee and thanked Ms. McGuire for her comments and stated that he looked forward to working with her.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairman Guthrie passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Bernt.

**RULES REVIEW:** **Assignment of the Administrative Rules.** **Vice Chairman Bernt** stated that he notified the Committee members of the Rule Assignments via email prior to the meeting. He stated that the Secretary had provided a digital copy of the representatives from the Agencies for each rule. A hard copy would be provided upon request. Chairman Guthrie was assigned the Credit Enhancement Program for School Districts (32.01.01). Vice Chairman Brent was assigned rules pertaining to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission Rules for Gas, Electric, and Water (31.21.01). Senator Anthon was assigned Accounts for Public Utilities (31.12.01). Senator Lee was assigned Master-Metering Rules for Electric Utilities (31.26.01). Senator Harris was assigned Gas Service Rules (31.31.01). Senator Toews was assigned Rules pertaining to the Idaho State Lottery (52.01.03). Senator Wintrow was assigned Idaho Racing Commission Rules (11.04.01). Senator Ruchti was assigned the Idaho State Liquor Division Rules (15.01.01).

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Wintrow** asked when discussion of the Rules would begin. **Vice Chairman Bernt** answered as soon as possible.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Vice Chairman Bernt passed the gavel back to the Chairman.

**RS 30902:** **Relating to Idaho's Sunshine Laws for Campaign Finance Reporting.** Chairman Guthrie welcomed Senator Herndon to the podium. **Senator Herndon** stated that **RS 30902** affected campaign contributions of candidates and political committees that were aggregated to total less than \$50. Presently, contributions aggregated to political candidates less than \$50 were not required to be itemized. This legislation would require that the names of all contributors be reported regardless of the contribution amount. Idaho Code § 67-66-14 stated that no anonymous donations were to be received. The new campaign finance reporting system required donations under \$50 be reported.

**MOTION:** **Senator Anthon** moved to send **RS 30902** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairman Guthrie passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Bernt.

**RS 30881** **Relating to Establishing a Teleworking Policy for State Employees in Executive Agencies.** Chairman Guthrie stated that since Covid, more employees worked from home and changes to Chapter 53 were required to further define teleworking policy. **RS 30881** asked that employees work from the office no less than 75 percent of the time period. It provided exceptions if there was no state office within fifty miles, the job was designated for telework, or in the case of illness or disability. Section 2 made clear that raises passed by the Legislature should not be implemented prior to July 1 of the budget year.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 30881** to print. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Vice Chairman Bernt passed the gavel back to the Chairman.

**RS 30870** **Relating to the Modification of the Idaho Terrorist Control Act to Define Domestic Terrorism and Redefine Terrorism.** **Senator Anthon** stated this Legislation had previously come before the Committee and passed the Senate but died in the House twice. It delineated and clarified the definition of terrorism and domestic terrorism, and highlighted the importance of due process in labeling people with these terms.

**MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send **RS 30870** to print. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 30917:** **Relating to School Libraries.** **Senator Schroeder** stated this legislation addressed materials that were available in public school libraries. It mandated that a curation and selection policy must be adopted by the school board. If material was challenged, a committee would be established to review the material. The library would close if the school failed to establish a committee to review the challenged material.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Anthon** asked if the intention was to address the issues of pornographic or inappropriate materials being given to children in public schools. **Senator Schroeder** answered "yes". He stated that from the perspective of an educator, this legislation allowed for a fair way to evaluate the usefulness of the material and enabled the community to make decisions regarding the appropriateness of the material. He stated the goal was to prevent access to pornography without improperly denying availability of materials that were appropriate for use in an educational setting.

**MOTION:** **Senator Anthon** moved to send **RS 30917** to print. **Senator Bernt** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL  
APPOINTMENT:**

**Gubernatorial Appointment of Jeff Agenbroad to the Idaho Energy Resource Commission** to serve a term commencing March 13, 2023 and expiring June 30, 2026. **Mr. Agenbroad** gave a brief overview of his background. He was a former Senator (2016 through 2022) and lived in Nampa. He was born and raised in Idaho and had been married 37 years. He obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees in finance and worked for 22 years in commercial banking. He owned small businesses, served as the Chairman of the St. Alphonsus Medical Board in Nampa, was the Director and President of the Snake River Stampede, and was the Director and Treasurer of Your Health Idaho Board. He enjoyed building and improving things.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Senator Wintrow** asked Mr. Agenbroad what he perceived his appointment to be and what skills he would bring to the appointment. **Mr. Agenbroad** stated that the position required an understanding of energy and the financing of utilities.

**Senator Lee** asked Mr. Agenbroad what he thought were the challenges and opportunities for the position. **Mr. Agenbroad** stated that he had only attended one meeting, but the largest bond issued was for Bonneville Power. He stated that he understood the dynamics of large and small utilities and the importance of ensuring that the Idaho Resource Authority complete its mission with the full spectrum of utilities.

**Chairman Guthrie** thanked Mr. Agenbroad for his willingness to serve and stated that he intended to allow for discussion after the Committee meeting and a vote would be conducted at the next meeting.

**GUBERNATORIAL  
REAPPOINTMENT:**

**Gubernatorial Reappointment of The Honorable Charles L. Winder to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board** to serve a term commencing April 11, 2023 and expiring April 11, 2027. **Senator Winder** stated that he served on the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board (Board) since his first year in the Legislature. **Mr. Winder** stated that when he started on the Board, the fund was \$1.5 billion. It is currently valued at more than \$3 billion. In addition, the Board manages funds for the Ritter Island superfund cleanup because of the large returns generated over a period of time. He highlighted that for a ten-year period, the return was 7.2 percent. The goal was to have sufficient funds for all beneficiaries, and to maintain a seven-year reserve. The Board maintained a small oversight board and utilized a long term approach. The focus had been diversification.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Chairman Guthrie** stated that, through the stewardship of the Board members, the funds had been successfully managed.

**Senator Lee** asked what opportunities and challenges did Senator Winder see for the Board. **Senator Winder** responded that these were very challenging times throughout the world and the market had remained relatively stable. He maintained that the main goal of the Board was to have reserve accounts for each of its beneficiaries and maintain long term stability. **Senator Lee** stated that she appreciated Senator Winder's stewardship.

**Chairman Guthrie** stated that he intended to allow for discussion after the Committee meeting and a vote would be conducted at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 8:42 a.m.

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Senator Guthrie  
Chair

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Peggy Caraway  
Secretary