

MINUTES
HOUSE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 29, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW05

MEMBERS: Chairman Holtzclaw, Vice Chairman Bundy, Representatives Kingsley, Wisniewski, Weber, McCann, Cheatum, Hawkins, Healey, Miller, Price, Wheeler, Chew (Hansen), Roberts

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Wisniewski, Weber, Cheatum, Price

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Holtzclaw called the meeting to order at 1:50 pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Roberts** made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2024 and February 15, 2024, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 593: **Rep. Weber** introduced **H 593** with the creation of the State Public Defender's Office county employees will move over as an employee to the State of Idaho. Employees will receive comparable accrual rates based upon their county PERSI hours. Employees can transfer up to 40 hours of vacation.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **H 593** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Weber** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 609: **Rep. Tanner** introduced **H 609** this legislation would allow a city, country, or district to go to the open market for an insurer of choice for worker's compensation instead of the state insurance fund. Other insurers would save money through lower rates and by more aggressive physical therapy to get the employees back to work sooner. He stated by allowing for other insurers, opening the market, making it more competitive. The results would be a better product. The fire district can get a lower rate, which will save money. The district won't have to bond, nor increase levy rates which will also save money.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to send **H 609** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 6 AYE and 4 NAY and 4 Absent/Excused.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Rep. Bundy, Rep. Kingsley, Rep. Hawkins, Rep. Healey, Rep. Miller, and Chairman Holtzclaw.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Rep. McCann, Rep. Wheeler, Rep. Chew (Hansen), and Rep. Roberts.** **Rep. Wisniewski, Rep. Weber, Rep. Cheatum, and Rep. Price were absent/excused.** **Rep. Tanner** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 607: **Rep. Monks** presented **H 607** on adding a statutory process for appealing public works project. This bill codifies a challenge and appeals process, building on what has worked well over the past two years and making modifications where lessons have been learned.

MOTION: **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **H 607** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Monks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Those **in support** of the bill are **Jared Schmidt**, American Institute of Architects Idaho. He stated that he is concerned the 25% bond requirement is high and may restrict small businesses in Idaho.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm.

Representative Holtzclaw
Chair

Jacobi Van Amburg
Secretary