

MINUTES
SENATE RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Burtenshaw, Vice Chairman Adams, Senators Guthrie, Den Hartog, Harris, Okuniewicz, Schroeder, Semmelroth, and Taylor

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 Burtenshaw** called the meeting of the Senate Resources and Environment Committee (Committee) to order at 1:02 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Vice Chairman Adams** moved to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2024. **Senator Okuniewicz** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Schroeder** moved to approve the Minutes of February 19, 2024. **Vice Chairman Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Semmelroth** moved to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2024. **Vice Chairman Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Okuniewicz** moved to approve the Minutes of February 26, 2024. **Vice Chairman Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Schroeder** moved to approve the Minutes of March 6, 2024. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Burtenshaw passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Adams.

RS 31634 **Concurrent Resolution Stating Findings of the Legislature and Approving Pending Rules of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Idaho Department of Lands, the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Idaho Department of Water Resources.** Unanimous Consent Request for Referral to a Privileged Committee for Printing.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Vice Chairman Adams** requested unanimous consent to send **RS 31634**, which approved Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and Idaho Department of Water Resources Administrative Rules reviewed by the Senate Resources and Environment Committee and the House Resources and Conservation Committee with exceptions, to a privileged committee for printing. There were no objections.

RS 31635 **Concurrent Resolution Stating Findings of the Legislature and Approving Pending Rules of the Idaho Department of Lands.** Unanimous Consent Request for Referral to a Privileged Committee for Printing.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Vice Chairman Adams** requested unanimous consent to send **RS 31635**, which approved Idaho Department of Lands Administrative Rules, Docket No. 20-0301-2301, reviewed by the Senate Resources and Environment Committee, to a privileged committee for printing. There were no objections.

PASSED THE GAVEL:

Vice Chairman Adams passed the gavel to Chairman Burtenshaw.

H 586

FISH AND GAME - Adds to existing law to require nonresidents to procure a hunting license prior to collecting, possessing, or transporting certain antlers or horns. Representative Burns explained that this legislation required that nonresidents obtain a nonresident hunting license prior to collecting, possessing, or transporting antlers or horns from deer, elk, moose, or pronghorn.

MOTION:

Senator Taylor moved to send **H 586** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Schroeder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Harris** requested to be recorded as voting nay.

H 687

KOOTENAI RIVER - Amends and adds to existing law to provide for the Kootenai River Water Rights Adjudication. Representative Sauter explained this legislation initiated the water adjudication process for the Kootenai River Basin in North Idaho. This was the last water basin in Idaho left to complete their water adjudication. The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) would be responsible for overseeing the process. There would be no new staff requirements, since after completing their work on the neighboring Pend Oreille Basin, IDWR would transfer staff to this project. This project would likely take four to five years and was supported by local water users.

DISCUSSION:

Senator Den Hartog asked for an explanation of the estimated cost of \$3.25 million over a five year period. **Representative Sauter** responded that cost was for staffing.

TESTIMONY:

Paul Arrington Director, Idaho Water Users Association, testified in favor of **H 687**. He shared that local constituents and water users were leading the effort to support and authorize this adjudication.

DISCUSSION:

Senator Semmelroth asked why the Kootenai River Basin was the last one to be adjudicated. **Mr. Arrington** responded that this was just the way it worked out. He added that there was some early resistance to adjudicating this basin, but stakeholders had come to appreciate the value of this type of a process. **Senator Dan Hartog** asked if the claim filing fees in the Fiscal Note were standard practice for the other adjudicated basins and if Idaho taxpayers paid the balance of the cost of adjudication. **Mr. Arrington** responded that other basins had a similar process for filing fees, and the balance of costs would be appropriated by the State. He added that this was consistent with how the other adjudications had been completed.

MOTION:

Senator Harris moved to send **H 687** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion.

TESTIMONY:

Shelley Keen, on behalf of the Department of Water Resources, testified in favor of **H 687**. She agreed that this was the right time to add the Kootenai River Basin to the list of authorized adjudications, since it had widespread support with local constituents and water users.

VOTE:

The motion to send H 687 to the floor with a do pass recommendation carried by **voice vote**.

RECONSIDER:

Senator Den Hartog moved to reconsider **H 586**. **Senator Schroeder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MOTION:

Senator Harris moved to hold **H 586** subject to call of the Chair. **Vice Chairman Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Burtenshaw** adjourned the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

Senator Burtenshaw
Chair

Shelly Johnson
Secretary