

MINUTES
SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT & TAXATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 08, 2024

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Ricks, Vice Chairman Schroeder, Senators Grow, Cook, Bernt, Trakel, Rabe, and Just

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Adams

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 Ricks** convened the meeting of the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee (Committee) at 3:01 p.m.

RS 30997 **Senator Nichols** presented **RS 30997**. She stated that this legislation defined terms relating to urban agriculture. The Farm Act addressed the commercial side of agriculture. This addressed the growing practice of urban agriculture. The Farm Bureau and other members of the agricultural industry were consulted in the drafting of this legislation.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Schroeder** moved to send **RS 30997** to print. **Senator Trakel** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 31097 **Senator Nichols** presented **RS 31097**. She explained that this legislation was for the protection of the right to utilize working animals for mutual benefit and welfare both in commerce and in service. It sought to prevent the banning of canine use in the police, exotic animals in zoos, aquariums, and such. This legislation further protected the right to use animals in commerce or service including ranching, hunting, tourism, entertainment, and transportation

MOTION: **Senator Bernt** moved to send **RS 31097** to print. **Vice Chairman Schroeder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 31096C1 **Senator Trakel** presented **RS 31096C1**. He stated that the purpose of this legislation was to provide for public testimony before governmental agencies on issues that affected the public. Currently, not every governmental agency was required to provide for public testimony. He felt this legislation was necessary to give the public a voice.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Ricks** asked Senator Trakel to provide an example of why this legislation was necessary. **Senator Trakel** cited the Nampa School District's failure to allow public testimony as one example. They only permitted written or e-mail testimony.

Senator Grow inquired about how this legislation might impact JFAC. **Senator Trakel** replied that it would not affect JFAC because they were under specific statutory requirements. **Chairman Ricks** asked Senator Trakel to check on that prior to any hearing on this legislation.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Schroeder** moved to send **RS 31096C1** to print. **Senator Just** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 30919 **Vice Chairman Schroeder** presented this legislation on behalf of Representative Cheatum and Kelley Packer, Executive Director, Association of Idaho Cities. He explained that **RS 30919** would increase the threshold for publishing personal service contracts from \$10,000 to \$50,000. He noted that the Minneapolis Federal Reserve inflation calculator estimated the current value of \$10,000, taking into account inflation since 1982 when the statute was enacted, was \$30,000. Therefore, he recommended that, if this legislation went forward, the threshold amount be amended to \$30,000.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Ricks** suggested that if the legislation moved forward, the Committee recommend that it be sent to the 14th order for amendment.

MOTION: **Senator Grow** moved to send **RS 30919** to print. **Senator Trakel** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Ricks** adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Senator Ricks
Chair

Meg Lawless
Secretary