

**Industrial Commission's Advisory Committee  
On Workers' Compensation  
Minutes  
August 13, 2025**

**Members Present:**

Dave Anderson  
Stephaine Butler  
Alex Garcia  
Dr. Cody Heiner  
Andrew Marcham  
Shellie Martin  
Kelly Paananen  
Matt Pappas  
Kelli Segroves  
Brian Whitlock  
Ex-Officio: Rep. James Holtzclaw

**Members Absent:**

Jamie Arnold  
Amanda Regnier  
Joe Maloney  
Darin Monroe  
Mark Peterson  
Ex-Officio: Senator Tammy Nichols

**Industrial Commission:**

Chair Claire Sharp  
Commissioner Aaron White  
Commissioner Tom Limbaugh  
Director George Gutierrez  
Commission Secretary Kamerron Slay

**Opening Remarks and Introductions:**

Mr. Marcham led the meeting and opened it at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Marcham reminded attendees to sign in and requested introductions from Committee members and public attendees.

**Minutes of May 7, 2025:**

The May 7, 2025 meeting minutes were presented for review and approval. Upon the motion of Dave Anderson, seconded by Alex Garcia, the minutes of May 7, 2025, were approved. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**Subcommittee Reports:**

Subcommittee on Peace Officer and Detention Officer Temporary Disability Fund. Chris Wagener provided a summary of the subcommittee meeting. Mr. Wagener indicated concerns about various aspects of the Peace Officer and Detention Officer Temporary Disability Act, including base salary, employer remittance of employee payments, cause of an injury, and the exclusion of state detention officers. The subcommittee examines how neighboring states like California, Montana, and Utah approach similar acts. Mr. Wagener indicated that the subcommittee looked at a definition of base salary to avoid varying interpretations, discussing whether it should be considered as an hourly wage or wage per hour. Employee remittance involves paying back when they receive TTDs, which has been confused due to the *Watkins v. Ponderay* case. Mr. Wagener indicated that the exclusion of state detention officers seems to be because they did not participate in earlier discussions.

There is concern about what qualifies as an accident due to "actions of another," specifically, whether a training accident falls under this category. Such accidents could deplete the funds. Mr. Wagener indicated that one municipality calculated that they could have claimed over \$600,000 in reimbursement for training-related incidents, significantly impacting the Fund. The goal is to find a compromise that covers necessary actions without exhausting the Fund. Mr. Wagener indicated that no further meetings have been scheduled, and there are no immediate plans for code changes, although this might be revisited next year if consensus is reached. The Fraternal Order of Police has volunteered to carry a legislative change if consensus can be achieved.

Benefits/Adjusters Meeting. Mr. Wagener summarized the meeting, indicating that the discussion included introducing new commission members, discussing medical payments by PPOs, updating JRPs on certain parts, and addressing fee disputes involving surety and local matters. Mr. Wagener indicated that an extensive conversation on EDI also took place. Mr. Wagener indicated they are currently working on scheduling the next meeting, which will be posted on the Commission's website.

### **Industrial Commission Report:**

Idaho Code Clean Up Act. Chair Sharp discusses the Code Clean-Up Act and confirms that the Commission is on schedule. The report will be submitted to the Legislative Service Office (LSO) by September 1st. Feedback on the proposals is needed urgently. Chair Sharp also thanks the staff for their work on Title 72.

The Commission has proposed three legislative ideas. Chair Sharp reviewed the proposal to repeal Idaho Code 72-101. Commissioner Sharp summarized the proposed amendments to Idaho Code 72-206 concerning the Idaho Youth Conservation Project, which would involve repealing Idaho Code 72-206 and retaining Idaho Code 72-205. Chair Sharp indicated that the third proposal, regarding Idaho Code 72-1102, consists of removing a short title. This change would not impact the subcommittee's ongoing work.

Chair Sharp reviewed sections that require additional research: Idaho Code 72-314 regarding payment of liability for public employers, Idaho Code 72-319 related to compliance. Chair Sharp took a moment to introduce the new Employer Compliance Manager, Matt Johnson.

***Public Comment:*** Barbara Jordan asks about the appropriate increase amount, suggesting it should be more than \$2.00. Chair Sharp stated that the correct amount is still undetermined and emphasized the need for careful consideration since it has not been adjusted. Ms. Jordan indicates support for ensuring that penalties encourage obtaining coverage.

Chair Sharp outlined HB563, which requires a review of administrative rules to assess the reasoning and necessity of each rule under consideration. Starting in January 2026, the Commission must provide a report explaining its necessity. Chair Sharp indicated that a subcommittee would be beneficial in discussing these ideas.

***Public Comment:*** Barbara Jordan noted that an administrative rules review was recently completed and inquired about the decision-making process. Chair Sharp

explained that the Division of Financial Management (DFM) will establish the schedule of these reviews. Ms. Jordan asked about the new schedule, and Chair Sharp clarified that this addition involves a new legislative report, making it an official component.

**Public Comment:** Lance Giles asked whether all the legislative ideas covered would be included in the report to LSO. Chair Sharp confirmed that the process would proceed with three proposals, and other ideas would also be reported. Mr. Giles questioned whether the three proposals would be included as official EALS, to which Chair Sharp affirmed, stating that agencies must undertake one proposal while the Commission is handling three.

**IRIS Update.** Ryan Linnarz provided an update on the IRIS Modernization project and indicated that five out of the six modules are completed. Mr. Linnarz indicated that they are currently adjusting the CVCP module. The soft launch for the Adjudication and Benefits departments has been completed, and the official rollout is scheduled for the upcoming weeks. IRIS is addressing the issues identified during the soft launch and appreciates everyone's cooperation. Regarding IRIS 2.0 enhancements, Mr. Linnarz indicated IRIS is approximately halfway through the process and remains on schedule to complete IRIS by 2026.

**JRP Update.** Dana Ryden reported that the Judicial Rules of Practice and Procedures (JRPs) had been updated and provided a summary of the changes. Ms. Ryden mentioned that the Commission requested input at the last meeting, and as of July 9th, the new JRPs have been updated. Ms. Ryden informed the Committee that the Commission had appointed a new Referee on Monday, who brings experience from Washington.

### **Other Issues/Announcements:**

Todd Johnson from NCCI updated Idaho workers' compensation insurance premium rates. Last year, the rates were reduced from 60% to 50%, benefiting the residential markets. NCCI monitors inflation data and its impact on workers' compensation; medical services have not shown significant inflation changes. In 2025, tariffs on prescriptions and durable medical equipment may have a greater effect, but nothing substantial has been reported yet. The Idaho system remains stable, and no significant changes are expected. Mr. Johnson's presentation at the Annual Seminar in October will provide more details.

**Election of Advisory Committee Members.** Andrew Marcham indicated the following positions were up for election: Worker Representative, Employer Representative, Attorney (Employer) Representative, Physician Representative, and the Chairman. Mr. Marcham nominated Jamie Arnold as Chair for the Advisory Committee, seconded by Stephine Butler. The motion carried by unanimous vote. Mr. Marcham indicated that Darin Monroe has vacated his position representing Claimants as he is switching to Defense work. He noted that if anyone was interested in the position, they should let Ms. Slay know.

### **Topics for Discussion at Next Meeting:**

Commissioner Limbaugh announced his retirement on October 1st. He indicated that the position will be open and encouraged people to apply. Commissioner Limbaugh expressed that he greatly enjoyed his time with the Commission and thanked everyone for their continued support. Representative Holtzclaw expressed gratitude to Commissioner Limbaugh for his years of service.

Director Gutierrez thanked Andrew for chairing the committee for one year. Director Gutierrez indicated the Annual Seminar on Workers' Compensation is scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Riverside Hotel.

The next meeting will be held on November 12, 2025. Upon Dave Anderson's motion, which Stephaine Butler seconded, the meeting was adjourned. The meeting ended at 10:07 a.m.

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