

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE BUSINESS AND LABOR CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**

Monday, January 12, 2015 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 450 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble, Chair
Sen. J. Stuart Adams
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Ann Milner

Staff Present:

Ms. Megan L. Bolin, Policy Analyst
Ms. Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Timothy J. Barber, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Bramble called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Mayne moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of the Proposed Appointment of Steven B. Bateman to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission

Mr. Steven B. Bateman gave an opening statement and spoke about his personal and professional background. He said that he looks forward to lending his professional expertise toward public service.

The committee questioned Mr. Bateman regarding his general attitude toward alcohol consumption and current issues in alcohol policy, including restaurant preparation partitions.

Mr. Bateman replied that he is not intimately familiar with the issues at hand, but believes in taking an analytical approach when making any kind of public policy.

MOTION: Sen. Okerlund moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Mr. Steven B. Bateman be confirmed as a member of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of the Proposed Appointment of Robert E. Rice to the Title and Escrow Commission

Mr. Robert E. Rice gave an opening statement and spoke to his qualification for this position due to his professional interest, experience.

Sen. Okerlund asked Mr. Rice how he might approach a potential conflict of interest working on the commission due to his employment in the title industry.

Senate Business and Labor Confirmation Committee

January 12, 2015

Page 2

Mr. Rice replied that such conflicts are not rare in his experience in working professionally with the Title and Escrow Commission and if such a conflict arose with his firm and the Title and Escrow Commission, he would recuse himself.

Sen. Bramble asked Mr. Rice whether he believes the State Insurance Commissioner or the Title and Escrow Commission should have the final say in creating administrative rules.

Mr. Rice replied that he believes the Title and Escrow Commission should have the final say, but clarified that if the Insurance Commissioner was granted that authority in statute that it would not negatively affect his desire to serve on the Title and Escrow Commission.

Mr. Brett Barratt, Deputy Commissioner, Utah Insurance Department spoke in favor of Mr. Rice's nomination.

Mr. Jeffery Wiener, Chair, Title and Escrow Commission, spoke in favor of Mr. Rice's nomination.

MOTION: Sen. Adams moved to favorably recommend to the full Senate that Mr. Robert E. Rice be confirmed as a member of the Title and Escrow Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Okerlund moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Bramble adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.