

MINUTES
HOUSE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 26, 2024

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW05

MEMBERS: Chairman Weber, Representatives Monks, Dixon(1), Manwaring, Rubel, Necochea, Burns

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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 Weber called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Burns** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2024 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31210: **Rep. Boyle** presented **RS 31210**, which will allow county Sheriff's offices to be reimbursed from state funds for the cost of transporting a prisoner, probationer or parolee who has absconded from the Idaho Department of Correction or Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole.

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon (1)** made a motion to introduce **RS 31210**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31422: **Rep. Petzke** presented **RS 31422**, relating to the signature verification process for statewide referendums. Rep. Petzke stated the proposed legislation will institute a monthly submission schedule versus submitting them all at the end. It will also extend the verification period to 90 days and create a 60-day review period to enhance civic engagement and accountability.

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon (1)** made a motion to introduce **RS 31422**.

In answer to questions from the committee, **Rep. Petzke** explained the signature gathering process will be 17 months instead of 18 months; signatures will be required to be turned in monthly for those gathered in the previous month; and signatures will be invalid if turned in after the monthly deadline. This is being done to help the Secretary of State Office balance workload, especially as the state is growing. More signatures take longer to verify.

Committee discussion opposed to the motion included expressions of concern the proposed legislation creates another barrier for citizens, it shuts down casual signature gatherers and deserves more time for examination than a late session introduction allows. Discussion in support of the motion, included appreciation for the RS to create some relief for the those verifying signatures, as there is a preference the referendum process would go away.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Rubel, Necochea and Burns** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

RS 31453: **Rep. Blanksma** presented **RS 31453**, which creates a rebuttable presumption of adequate warning with regard to U.S. EPA approved warning labels with the carcinogenicity classification. It applies to two sections of Idaho Code: Title 22, which references agriculture, and Title 48, which references trade practices.

- MOTION:** **Rep. Manwaring** made a motion to introduce **RS 31453. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31479:** **Rep. Redman** presented **RS 31479**, which directs the Department of Health and Welfare set up a pilot program to track and share data with local law enforcement and health districts for new incidents and emergence of illicit drugs.
- In answer to questions from the committee, **Rep. Redman** stated he is not aware of whether there is a definition for "de-identified" in code, but his understanding is there are new drug compounds that are often mixed and may not yet be known or identified pharmaceutically. The committee recommended the definition be included in the RS as it moves forward.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to introduce **RS 31479. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31498:** **Rep. Shepherd** presented **RS 31498**, which is a joint memorial supporting the relicensing process to Idaho Power, but it also requests the Hells Canyon Dam complex be maintained at a minimum of 8,500 CFS from May 15 to October 1 for the benefit of Idaho residents as it relates to recreation, water temperatures, fisheries and electricity production. Rep. Shepherd explained this may be some burden on Idaho Power, but water level fluctuations and timing of those fluctuations are creating an almost inoperable situation for Idaho's outfitters and guides.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to introduce **RS 31498.**
- In answer to questions from the committee, **Rep. Shepherd** stated there has been a short conversation with Idaho Power, as there will likely be a small impact to their bottom line.
- VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31472:** **Rep. Erickson** presented **RS 31472**, which will make it possible for inmates hired by private employers under the Department of Correction's work release program to earn similar salary and benefits as other similarly situated employees.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Burns** made a motion to introduce **RS 31472.**
- Committee discussion focused on concern this requirement may discourage employers from participating in the program.
- VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31289C1:** **Rep. Manwaring** presented **RS 31289C1**, which provides for expedited judicial review of state purchasing decisions. It also pauses the deadline to submit an administrative appeal until public records related to the purchasing decision are provided, pursuant to the Public Records Act.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Dixon (1)** made a motion to introduce **RS 31289C1. Motion carried by voice.**
- Chairman Weber** turned the gavel over to **Rep. Monks.**
- RS 31515:** **Chairman Weber** presented **RS 31515**, and explained it gives property rights back to homeowners by giving them representation on their homeowner's association (HOA) board when 75% of their development is built out and occupied. It also outlines the process for turning total control of the HOA board over to homeowners once the development is 95% built out.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Manwaring** made a motion to introduce **RS 31515.**
- In answer to a question from the committee, **Rep. Weber** stated subsection 55-3204B comes into play after the requirements of subsection 55-3204A are met.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote.

Rep. Monks turned the gavel over to **Chairman Weber**.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m.

Representative Weber
Chair

Wendy Carver-Herbert
Secretary