

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 22, 2019

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Harris, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representatives Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Zito, Scott, Andrus, Hartgen, Young, Smith, Gannon, Green(18)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Paul Rolig, Humanists of Idaho; Bruce Wingate, Protect Idaho Kids Foundation; Ken Burgess, Idaho Press Club

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

HR 6: **Rep. Giddings** presented **HR 6**, a House resolution relating to Christian persecution. Rep. Giddings explained the resolution reaffirms Idaho's support for religious freedom and human rights for all people. It also calls on every government to allow Christians to practice their religion without persecution.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Giddings** answered **HR 6** is not recommending policy or law changes, it is a resolution.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **HR 6** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Paul Rolig, Humanists of Idaho, testified **in opposition** to **HR 6**. He was of the opinion the resolution should include all religions, not just Christianity.

Bruce Wingate, Protect Idaho Kids, testified **in support** of **HR 6**. He was of the opinion government should recognize religious rights without persecution, but religious freedom should not provide a defense for an individual to harm another person, for example with faith-healing.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Gannon** made a substitute motion to send **HR 6** to General Orders. He explained the definition of religion should be tightened up, along with making other changes.

Reps. Green(18) and **Smith** spoke **in support** of the substitute motion stating the legislature has a responsibility to acknowledge all religions, and this resolution has not brought enough to do so, respectively.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Substitute motion failed by voice vote. Reps. Smith, Gannon, and Green(18)** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Giddings** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to allow **Chad Houck** to present **S 1153** without a floor sponsor.

Chairman Harris stated the motion was out of order citing the fact **S 1153** did have a floor sponsor and it is the Chairman's decision how legislation can be presented in committee.

S 1153: **Chad Houck**, Deputy Secretary of State, Secretary of State's Office, presented **S 1153**, relating to lobbyist reporting and registration. Mr. Houck explained the legislation will have no fiscal impact and was drafted in collaboration with the Lobbyist Association. The legislation defines four key issues including who registers as a lobbyist, who does not and what are the exemptions, who reports for exempt parties, and how the reporting process works. Terms including contractor and employee were changed to lobbyist client and lobbyist employee, among others.

Rep. Hartgen invoked Rule 38.

Ken Burgess, Idaho Press Club, testified in **opposition** to **S 1153**, stating concerns about the final part of the legislation relating to exemptions from public records requests.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Burgess** answered he preferred if the legislation would require a contact email.

In his closing statement, **Mr. Houck** cited security concerns for the reason why certain information is exempt.

MOTION: **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to send **S 1153** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Barbieri** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 AM.

Representative Harris
Chair

Julia Grief
Secretary