

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 13, 2021
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW40
MEMBERS: Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Scott, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Hanks, Skaug, Gannon, Mathias
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Palmer
GUESTS: None

Chairman Crane called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

RS 28173: **Rep. Nate** presented **RS 28173** which would ensure transparency in bond and levy elections by ensuring full disclosure of anticipated tax increases to voters. It would also preclude additional distracting information about other bond and levy obligations which are not included in the ballot question.

Rep. Nate explained this proposed legislation would ensure voters have a clear understanding of how their tax dollars will be used and how they will be effected with passage of the bond or levy. It will require county clerks to include a brief official statement in simple, understandable language, and information about the proposed bond or levy. It also limits language to each bond or levy on the ballot. Reference to a bond or levy not on the ballot will be prohibited. Failure to comply would result in a fine.

In response to questions, **Rep. Nate** said he will research precedence that has been set for issuing fines for non-compliance. He also clarified the intent is to fine the County Clerk's Office, not the individual. Some language will need to be changed to reflect this intent.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 28173** with the following changes: Page 2 Line 12 - add the word question after ballot; Page 2 Line 16 - replace clerk with clerk's office; Page 2 Line 47 - add question after ballot; Page 3 Line 2 - replace clerk with clerk's office. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 28175: **Rep. Nate** presented **RS 28175** which clarifies that kids can grow up with reasonable independence in childhood. Currently, Idaho's open-ended definition of neglect leaves parents exposed to frivolous allegations of neglect and authorities responding to these incidences.

The proposed law clarifies that child neglect be defined as actually putting children in obvious danger or denying them truly necessary care and does not include normal actions by parents for encouraging reasonable childhood independence activities. It would protect families across the economic spectrum by affirming parents' rights to allow their children to do things such as walk to and from school, play outside, etc.

Rep. Nate stated the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare received approximately 23,000 reports of child abuse last year. Close to 12,000 of those reports were not valid and 12% of child abuse reports were made between parents. This proposed law has also been designed to help Child Protective Services.

In response to questions, **Rep Nate** stated that current neglect laws do not state specific ages. He also clarified that this legislation does not include withholding medical care for children..

MOTION: Rep. Hanks made a motion to introduce **RS 28175. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Kelly Staskey
Secretary