

MINUTES  
**HOUSE JUDICIARY, RULES & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW42

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Chaney, Vice Chairman Hartgen, Representatives Kerby, Amador, Ehardt, Scott, Marshall, Troy, Young, Nate, Cannon, Erickson, Skaug, Gannon, McCrostie, Ruchti, Nash

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Ehardt

**GUESTS:** Barbara Jorden, ITLA; Senior District Judge Barry Wood, Deputy Administrative Director, Administrative Office of the Courts.

**Chairman Chaney** called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

**Chairman Chaney** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chair Hartgen**.

**H 27** **Rep. Chaney** presented **H 27**. This Bill is intended to revise the number of Judges in the Third Judicial District, and it does this by expanding the number of District Judges by one. The Third Judicial District includes Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette and Washington Counties, and these Counties have experienced considerable population increases. Rep. Chaney then yielded to **Administrative District Judge George Southworth**, Third Judicial District, who spoke about the costs associated with this request and the necessity of the position, comparing the disproportional case loads of District 3 District Judges with the case loads of other Idaho Judicial Districts. The addition of one District Judge will bring District 3 in line with the other Judicial Districts in Idaho.

**ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to send **H 27** to the House floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. .

**Judge Southworth** responded to a question seeking clarification on the process of district judge appointment and election cycles and explained how a district judge is appointed, and then must stand for election every 4 years. **Senior District Judge Barry Wood**, Deputy Administrative Director, Administrative Office of the Courts, responded to more specific questions about District Judges being placed in position by appointment in between election cycles.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a substitute motion to send **H 27** to General Orders. Speaking to the motion, **Rep. Scott** said this will expedite the bill and allow time for district judge selection by public election instead of appointment.

**Vice Chair Hartgen** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Chaney**.

**VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Chairman Chaney** called for a vote on the substitute motion to send **H 27** to General Orders. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Chairman Chaney** called for a vote on the original motion to send **H 27** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Chaney** to sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

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Representative Chaney  
Chair

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Andrea Blades  
Secretary