

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, February 26, 2021

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Guthrie, Senators Winder, Anthon, Harris, Lee, Stennett, and Burgoyne

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Heider

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairwoman Lodge** called the meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:04 a.m.

**PRESENTATION:** **State of the Gunfighters at Mountain Home Air Force Base and Military Construction Projects.**

**Colonel Rick Goodman**, Commander, 366th Fighter Wing, Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB), Idaho, introduced himself to the Committee. **Chairwoman Lodge** thanked Colonel Goodman for his attendance and said the Committee is honored by his presence. She informed the Committee that Colonel Goodman was previously a member of the United States Air Force Thunderbirds.

**Colonel Goodman** advised his goal is to introduce the Committee to the 366th Fighter Wing, known as the Gunfighters, and provide an update on their activities (see Attachment A). He introduced Chief Master Sergeant Josh Tidwell and Trace Giles, Community Partnerships Director, to the Committee. **Colonel Goodman** provided a history of the Gunfighters' presence in Idaho. He explained the Gunfighters' mission statement, vision, and priorities and described the organizational structure of the Gunfighters. **Colonel Goodman** said the most important component of the 366th Fighter Wing is the Mountain Home Training Complex (Complex) located 20-30 miles south of MHAFB.

**Colonel Goodman** advised that Gunfighters are stationed around the world to assist with important national defense activities. He described a recent training exercise called "Raging Gunfighter" in which Gunfighters deployed to a remote location and rapidly established a fully functioning air base. **Colonel Goodman** described equipment and squadrons attached to MHAFB and mentioned a strategic partnership with the country of Singapore. He explained 300 members of the Singapore Air Force are stationed at MHAFB and train with the Gunfighters. **Colonel Goodman** observed that support from the community of Mountain Home is critical to the success of the Gunfighters' mission. He reported statistics on the economic value of the Gunfighters' presence in the State of Idaho. He provided examples of MHAFB construction projects contributing to the State's economy.

**Colonel Goodman** stated he is a fighter pilot, and he thought his job as commander would be to fly the lead aircraft to fight America's enemies. Instead, he spends most of his time considering long-term planning recommendations for the U.S. Air Force and Department of Defense senior leadership. **Colonel Goodman** reported that F-15e Strike Eagles will be part of the USAF inventory into the 2040s. He noted that MHAFB is well positioned for future growth. **Colonel Goodman** invited the

Committee to visit MHAFB, tour the equipment, and meet the airmen stationed there.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Anthon** stated that the Idaho Senate supports and appreciates MHAFB, and wants the Gunfighters to remain in Idaho.

**Senator Harris** echoed Senator Anthon's statement. He asked which is Colonel Goodman's favorite jet, the F-16 or the F-15. **Colonel Goodman** answered that he would choose the F-15e Strike Eagle.

**Senator Winder** thanked Colonel Goodman for his service and contributions to the U.S. and State of Idaho. He mentioned he formerly served as an instructor at the Naval Air Station at Whiting Field.

**Chairwoman Lodge** said she appreciates Colonel Goodman's invitation to visit the base, and she added the Committee looks forward to the opportunity. **Chairwoman Lodge** thanked Colonel Goodman for his presentation and his work to keep the country safe.

**RS 28656** **Relating to Broadband Communications to grant authority to build/maintain broadband infrastructure.**

**Senator Doug Ricks**, District 34, presented **RS 28656**, which would allow cities and counties to install infrastructure for broadband internet. He added that the bill will facilitate public-private partnerships between local governments and internet providers.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Stennett** asked if the timing of the RS is related to the availability of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. **Senator Ricks** answered that local governments hope to use CARES Act funds for the installation of various projects.

**MOTION:** **Senator Stennett** moved to send **RS 28656** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairwoman Lodge passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Guthrie.

**RS 28675C1** **Relating to Initiatives and Referendums to revise certain provisions regarding the signing of initiatives and referendums.**

**Chairwoman Lodge** explained **RS 28675C1** would require petition signatures for citizen initiatives and referendums to be collected within the State of Idaho.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Stennett** stated that Idaho law requires any initiative signatures to be from registered voters who have proved their residency. She asked about the purpose of the bill. **Chairwoman Lodge** explained **RS 28675C1** does not add any rigor to the initiative process but would merely require the signatures to be gathered in Idaho. **Chairwoman Lodge** observed that was always the expectation, but the RS will make it more clear.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to print **RS 28675C1**. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Stennett** and **Senator Burgoyne** were recorded as voting nay.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Vice Chairman Guthrie passed the gavel back to Chairwoman Lodge.

**RS 28699** **A Constitutional Amendment related to sessions of the legislature.**

**Senator Winder** stated **RS 28699** is a revised joint resolution for a proposed constitutional amendment to allow the Legislature to call itself into special

session. He noted this legislation sets forth the requirements for a petition and sideboards to preclude the Legislature from considering any subjects other than those specified in the petition. **Senator Winder** explained **RS 28699** sets forth the publication requirements for the amendment. He added the fiscal note includes costs for the publication of the amendment and estimated daily expenses for a special session.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Stennett** asked if there is any place in Idaho Code that clearly defines the various types of Legislative Sessions. **Senator Winder** pointed out that "regular session" and "extraordinary session" are mentioned in the Constitution. He said the RS would add references to "organizational session" and "special session."

**MOTION:** **Senator Anthon** moved to send **RS 28699** to print. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Burgoyne** stated he will support the motion because the RS is an improvement over similar legislation the Legislature is considering. He expressed doubt he will support the resolution on its merits.

**VOICE VOTE:** The motion to send **RS 28699** to print carried by **voice vote**.

**S 1134** **Relating to the State Disaster Emergency Account to allow for the recovery of federal funds after a declaration of emergency has expired or terminated.**

**Senator Harris** explained the proposed legislation changes "during" to "arising out of" to allow the Governor to recover federal funds after an emergency declaration ends. **Senator Harris** added the bill contains an emergency clause to make it effective upon the Governor's signature.

**MOTION:** **Senator Lee** moved to send **S 1134** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**S 1136** **Relating to Martial Law in times of extreme peril.**

**Senator Anthon** explained **S 1136** is a bill previously approved by the Committee. He said, due to a procedural error, the bill must be referred to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendments.

**MOTION:** **Senator Lee** moved to send **RS 1136** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Burgoyne** stated he has concerns because the bill would appear to preclude use of martial law in case of a nonviolent insurrection. **Senator Burgoyne** also disagreed with the proposed changes pertaining to firearms restrictions. He added he cannot support the legislation.

**VOICE VOTE:** The motion to send **S 1136** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Stennett** and **Senator Burgoyne** were recorded as voting nay.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:42 a.m.

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Senator Lodge, Chair

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Twyla Melton, Secretary

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Jeanne Jackson-Heim, Assistant Secretary