

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Scott, Andrus, Young, Furniss (Blanchard), Hanks, Skaug, Gannon, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Young

GUESTS: Jason Hancock - Deputy Secretary of State

Chairman Crane called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Rep. Mathias made a motion to approve minutes from April 8, 2021. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 66aaS: **Rep. Nate** presented **H 66aaS**. This legislation would ensure transparency in bond and levy elections by requiring full disclosure of anticipated tax increases to voters and precluding additional distracting information about other bond and levy obligations which are not impacted by the outcome of the ballot question. The legislation also provides for nullification and penalty if provisions are violated.

The Senate amendments omitted language that said no other language could be allowed. It also points out the consequence of not following language, there would not be a penalty of having to pay for the election costs. Rep. Nate approves of the amendments.

The amendments will allow additional language on bond ballots. It also specifies, more clearly, what the language is for and outlines the consequence of not following the language requirement. If the court rules conditions were not met, it would invalidate the election but would not require reimbursement of election costs. Transparency is improved but less than what was originally proposed and the consequences are less severe.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Nate** clarified the original bill has been minimized but the legislation is still stronger than existing statute. Page 2 Lines 31 - 44 contain the new levy language.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to Concur with the Senate amendments on **H 66aaS**. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Nate** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 348 **Jason Hancock** presented **H 348**. This legislation is a trailer bill to **H 73**. Since **H 73** requires local government accounting, budgetary, and financial information to be reported through a public website maintained by the State Controller, there is no longer a need for cities to file their annual appropriation ordinance with the Secretary of State. Such reporting would be duplicative, and undermines the purpose of the one-stop-shop of local government financial information created by **H 73**.

In the experience of the people who work at the Secretary of State's office, only one person has come in to review this report in 20 years. It is anticipated the report will have more visibility on the State Controller's website.

MOTION: **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to send **H 348** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Horman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1062: **Rep. Gannon** presented **H 1062**. This legislation makes two changes relating to candidate filings. First, it requires that write-in candidates for the position of United States President must provide their Vice-Presidential selection and their Presidential Electors for the State of Idaho at the time they file their declaration of candidacy as a write-in candidate. This information is already required for all Presidential candidates whose names appear on the ballot, and would be necessary to execute on the election results, should such a write-in candidate win. Second, it clarifies that the petition for independent candidates for all partisan offices will be on forms prescribed by the Secretary of State, modelled on the format used for recall petitions.

Rep. Gannon said there are approximately 20 write-in candidates for each general election. Independent candidates will be required to fill out a special form for the Secretary of State's office.

Rep. Barbieri made a motion to send **S 1062** 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 was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Kelly Staskey
Secretary