

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 24, 2022

**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:** Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representative(s) Monks

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Crane** called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 9, 15, 17, 18, 2022, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 671:** **Rep. Ehardt** presented **H 671** which focuses on the recall elections in trustee school board elections. If there has been a recall, this legislation leaves the decision up to the people of the community. There have been technical difficulties in the past that have delayed this from happening. If a scheduled election date is upcoming within 120 days of a recall, then there would be no one appointed, but candidates would be allowed to run for the vacated trustee office position. If it exceeds 120 days, there will be a temporary replacement, and that position will be filled at the next election. Rep. Ehardt mentioned that the temporary replacement has the opportunity to run for the appointed position.

In response to questions regarding if there is a possibility for school board members to meet after a recall where a few positions were vacated, and the rest of the school board members were to hold a meeting in executive session, **Quinn Perry**, the Deputy Director for the School Boards Association stated if there are two vacancies the members are allowed to go into executive session on simple majority.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **H 671** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Phil McGrane**, Elections Chair for the Idaho Associations of County Recorders and Clerks stated his support for the bill.

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

**H 665:** **Rep. Blanksma** presented **H 665** which addresses the constitutional defense fund and council. There are four members of the council; the Governor, the Attorney General, the Speaker of the House, and the Senate Pro Tempore. This legislation removes the Attorney General from the council.

In response to a committee question, **Rep. Blanksma** stated this fund is a "slush fund" for the Attorney General, rather than using it for legislative purposes to defend against constitutional intrusion.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to send **H 665** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Blanksma** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 29511:** **Rep. Skaug** presented **RS 29511** which requires cities and special districts that are subject to election consolidation to provide the clerk with adequate information regarding the new election zones. This makes it more efficient for the clerk to make the necessary adjustments before the election.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 29511**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**S 1274:** **Rep. Young** presented **S 1274** which directs the Secretary of State to order a post election audit of chosen election results after a primary or general election. This legislation intends to increase public confidence in election results by checking paper ballots. If there are findings, the Secretary of State has the option to audit additional ballots.

**Phil McGrane**, Ada County Clerk testified **in support** of this bill. He added the integrity of the elections and importance of having the confidence of the public that the election results are accurate. Mr. McGrane stated the Cyber-Security Task Force, created by **Governor Little** focused on elections and one of the recommendations is to approve this specific legislation. In response to committee questions, Mr. McGrane added that every county in the state of Idaho uses paper ballots as the physical form where votes are cast, and most counties in Idaho use electronic equipment to read the ballots. The system is never connected to the internet to prohibit hacking. There is testing done through the electronic systems to check the accuracy of the machines. Using hand-marked ballots with knowing the results beforehand, running them through the machine, and checking that the results match the ballots ensures the machines are working accurately. The results are hand delivered from the tabulation room to the network computer and uploaded.

**Jason Hancock**, Deputy Secretary of State stated his **support** of the bill, and mentioned the changes in the bill from the previous year.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to send **S 1274** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Young** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

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Representative Crane  
Chair

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Haley Villa  
Secretary