

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 05, 2020

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

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Harris, Senators Hill, Winder, Vick, Anthon, Souza, Stennett, and Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** none

**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:** **Vice Chairman Harris** called the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

**PRESENTATION: YOUTH VAPING EPIDEMIC.**

**Dr. Halpern-Felsher**, Professor (Research) Of Pediatrics (Adolescent Medicine), Stanford University, gave a presentation on vaping. She said there has been a major drop in cigarette use, but a marked increase in e-cigarette use. She shared several points from the Idaho 2019 Youth Risk Survey:

- e-cigarettes are designed to be attractive and sleek with youth appeal packaging perfect for hiding;
- e-cigarettes are considered a tobacco product and are cheaper than cigarettes;
- they come in disposable puff bars loaded with nicotine, and are equal to two packs of cigarettes;
- e-cigarettes are in the fifth generation of products with new flavors designed for young people;
- e-cigarettes are very harmful, especially when heated to 300-400° and inhaled;
- Idaho vape shops are selling to minors even though 21 is the legal age;
- the federal government has authority to regulate e-cigarettes, even though they are legal;
- enforcement is up to the state and local agencies and since e-cigarette products are used by many people, this could hinder enforcement.

**Dr. Halpern-Felsher** responded to questions from the Committee and said that over the last decade marijuana use has leveled out, however, edible use of marijuana is up. Since it takes longer to be absorbed by the body, the chance of overdose increases especially since tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is ten times more potent than it was in the 1960s. This potency and the effects on a developing brain are still being studied. She said there are many health issues associated with high nicotine use including headaches, asthma and pneumonia. Even second-hand vapors can cause these symptoms. When e-cigarettes are inhaled, the vitamin E acetate clogs lungs and they can become hardened.

**S 1269**                    **RELATING TO ELECTIONS** - to ensure that ballots remain sealed until the recount period has passed.

**Kelli Brassfield**, from the Idaho Association of Counties, presented **S 1269**, which pertains to the security of ballots when there is a recount. This legislation will clarify the statute regarding the process when recounting occurs.

In response to a question regarding the custodian of the ballots until the recount, **Phil McGrane**, Ada County Clerk, said the elected clerk is the custodian of the ballots. If there is a recount, those ballots will be transferred to the sheriff.

**MOTION:**                **Senator Anthon** moved to send **S 1269** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Chairwoman Lodge** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**S 1268**                    **RELATING TO ELECTIONS** - changes deadline for write-in candidates

**Ms. Brassfield** next presented **S 1268**, which pertains to the write-in deadlines for reelection. This legislation will change the deadline dates for both partisan and non-partisan offices to the eighth Friday prior to the election, plus write-in requirements.

**MOTION:**                **Senator Anthon** moved to send **S 1268** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY (INL)** – the new home to the National Reactor Innovation Center.

**Dr. Mark Peters**, Laboratory Director, introduced his colleagues, John Revere, John Wagner, and Dr. Ashley Finan. He gave a brief history of the lab, and how they got their start by testing battleship guns during World War II.

**Dr. Peters** said the lab is aligned with the nation's needs for nuclear and clean energy, and space security. This has created significant growth, and consequentially, a shortage of skilled workers. He said they are addressing this issue by working with trade unions and community colleges to make job opportunities known to students, and working with STEM programs to raise awareness. In collaboration with Idaho State University and Boise State University, students and faculty now work together on research in the two newly constructed Cybersecurity and Computing Research facilities (see Attachment 1).

**Dr. Ashley Finan**, Director of the National Reactor Innovation Center (NRIC), next spoke about NRIC, their mission, and how they are accomplishing it. The Department of Energy (DOE) launched NRIC under the Nuclear Capability Innovation Abilities Act. She said the NRIC provides innovators with the necessary support to test and demonstrate advanced nuclear reactor concepts, provide capabilities to accelerate technology from proof of concept, through proof of operations, with the goal of providing clean efficient energy (see Attachment 2).

In response to Committee questions, **Dr. Finan** detailed the qualifications for innovators and named a few, including Westinghouse and Terrapower; Terrapower is owned in part by Bill Gates. She said the closed-circuit process, currently used in France, is being explored now that the federal government is reevaluating how to access used nuclear energy.

**Dr. Finan** said there are many opportunities for the State of Idaho and the private sector in participating in energy production. NRIC is currently working on battery storage for vehicles and how to supply the energy needs at charging stations. She said micro reactors would be a good fit and could be used in the future for both private and public transportation needs.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Vice Chairman Harris** adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

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Senator Lodge, Chair

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Twyla Melton, Secretary

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Denise B. McNeil  
Assistant to the Assistant Majority  
Leader