

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 14, 2024

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Young, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Andrus, Skaug, Alfieri, Allgood, Crane(12), Gannon, Nash (Stinson)

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

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

**Vice Chairman Young** called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**IDAPA 38.05.01:** **Rep. Crane (13)** brought before the committee IDAPA 38.05.01 explaining committee chairmen can hold a hearing for Administrative Rules at any time. This rule deals with the statutory authority of the Department of Administration with regards to purchasing. It was made clear by a previous subcommittee an invitation to negotiate should not have been included in the purchasing process. Language allowing negotiation was later put into a rule. The intention of the committee today is to strike all language which adds the invitation to negotiate.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Crane (13)** clarified removing this language removes the invitation to negotiate at any point in the process including before bids are submitted. He also stated the states procurement process is not halted by this change, only the ability to negotiate. This change would go into effect upon the passage of a concurrent resolution.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Crane (13)** made a motion to strike all sections with language involving negotiations from **IDAPA 38.01.011.05, IDAPA 38.05.01.011.14, IDAPA 38.05.01.011.17, IDAPA 38.05.01.011.18, IDAPA 38.05.01.051.02, IDAPA 38.05.01.051.04, IDAPA 38.05.01.051.070, IDAPA 38.05.01.084.01a, and IDAPA 38.05.01.094. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 31324:** **Rep. Rubel** presented **RS 31324** explaining this proposed legislation is a rewrite of legislation previously brought to this committee. This updated version aligns the electioneering periods to 60 days before both a primary or standard election. The synthetic media addressed in this proposed legislation must be deceptive and the proposed legislation now only pertains to audio and video, not still images. In response to committee questions, Rep. Rubel clarified memes would not fall under these restrictions and gave examples of other republican states which have passed similar legislations. She further explained this proposed legislation was drafted without any contact to the World Economic Forum who have also listed synthetic media as a primary concern.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 31324. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 493:** **Rep. Gallagher** presented **H 493** explaining this legislation prevents any political subdivisions from mandating mask wearing. This legislation does not include any hospitals or health care facilities. It also does not limit anyone's ability to wear a mask if they so choose. This legislation honors people's freedom to make individual health decisions, and honors concerns about technical workers such as painters or welders who may need to wear a mask for safety, by providing an exemption.

**Senator Lenney** continued the presentation stating much of the science now proves masks were unhelpful in stopping the spread of Covid 19, and mask requirements are government overreach. In response to committee questions, he clarified this legislation would prevent a public school nurse from requiring a sick student to wear a mask.

**David Pettinger** testified in support of H 493 recalling cases of people who were not allowed into the courthouse because they were not wearing a mask who were then arrested for missing their court hearings.

**Kelley Packer** spoke in opposition to H 493 stating cities response to Covid 19 was made up of people trying to do the best they could with the information provided at the time. She asked the committee to not tie local leaders hands when dealing with emergencies in the future. In response to committee questions, Ms. Packer explained the Idaho Association of Cities' Board was unanimous in opposition to this legislation and clarified the IAC never promoted mask mandates. In response to questions about the City of Boise's mask mandates, she clarified Boise is only one of over 200 cities in Idaho of varying sizes and capacities. She further acknowledged the desire for a baseline policy but expressed desire for a baseline different from removing the option of mask mandates completely.

**LeeJoe Lay**, People's Rights Organization, testified in support of H 493 stating Covid 19 response mandates took away the freedom of association, and the authority to create mandates does not exist. In response to committee questions, Mr. Lay provided further information about his P100 mask, which is the OSHA approved mask for filtering organic particles which was not used during the Covid 19 response.

**Leslie Manookiean**, Health Freedom Defense Fund, testified in support of H 493 explaining the science has shown for a long time the ineffectiveness of masks. Mask mandates are another form of compelled dress. In response to committee questions, Ms. Manookiean stated the health freedom defense fund has sued the Biden Administration three times and defeated the federal travel mask mandate.

**Garth Gaylord** testified in support of H 493 stating he was put in jail for 3 weeks for not wearing a mask.

**Carlos Vidales** testified in support of H 493 citing studies which illustrate the ineffectiveness of masks in protecting against viruses.

**Miste Karlfeldt** testified in support of H 493 stating mask mandates go against religious beliefs.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to send H 493 to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Gallagher** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Rep. Stinson** spoke in support of the motion stating his constituents support this legislation and he supports personal choice.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Stinson** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 12, 2023. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:06 AM.

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Representative Crane (13)  
Chair

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Kennedy Jones  
Secretary