

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 21, 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, Achilles

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Crane (13)

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.

Rep. Palmer called the meeting to order at 8:59 AM.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 15th, 2024. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 570: **Rep. Moyle** presented **H 570** explaining this legislation was created to address special distributors. The Star Mercantile has long been a special distributor for alcohol, but since the state has put in a liquor store, that license has been removed. This legislation allows businesses to continue to be special distributors as long as they are operating under the same regulations as state liquor stores. This protects small private businesses by grandfathering them in if a state liquor store comes to their town.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to send **H 570** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Moyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 487: **Rep. Clow** presented **H 487** explaining this legislation was drafted after a public utility in Idaho changed ownership. This legislation states the new owners must honor the agreements that were made by the previous owners unless one of three things has occurred. First, more than five years has passed since the merger. Second, the agreement has expired. Third, both parties mutually agree to terminate. This legislation also asks the Public Utilities Commission to respond quickly to complaints. In response to committee questions, Rep. Clow clarified these are development agreements and are made before any lots are sold to the public. Changes in these agreements can drastically change the investment needed to develop the property.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to send **H 487** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Clow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 456: **Rep. Scott** presented **H 456** explaining this bill clarifies the reporting requirements for state officers and agencies and gives the State Controller the authority to develop a policy explaining the reporting. Last year the House passed **H 97** creating a new section of code and new responsibility of the State Controller to publish a current list of all agency agreements. However, agencies are having difficulty because they don't know what to report or how to report. This allows the State Controller to set up a policy to carry out the provisions and requirements of this section and further improve transparency. In response to committee questions, Rep. Scott explained the State Controller's office is on board with this legislation and their lawyers have helped in its drafting.

MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to send **H 456** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Scott** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Rep. Palmer turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Young**.

H 395: **Rep. Scott** presented **H 395** explaining last year the House passed legislation stating elected officials cannot advertise on warrants from the state. However, people are still receiving mail from the state which promotes non-profits in the state. This legislation states there will be no electioneering messages, including support for government programs or nonprofits, on state mail. She explained there is a better section of code for this change to take place, which is the reason for the new RS to come. In response to committee questions, she clarified there are necessary messages that may need to be included with checks from the states, and therefore she is hesitant to restrict all messaging.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to **HOLD H 395.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31281: **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 31281** explaining this proposed legislation is the same as **H 395** with more technicalities surrounding the terms remittance advice/memos. She reaffirmed her hesitancy to restrict all messaging as some additional information regarding checks is needed, this is meant to prevent promotion.

MOTION: **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to introduce **RS 31281** and recommend it be sent directly to the second reading calendar.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 31281.**

Rep. Palmer spoke to his motion explaining there are a lot of little changes in this draft and he would like to give the public one more shot to testify if needed.

Rep. Scott spoke **in opposition** to the substitute motion stating, this proposed legislation's intent is identical, no advertising on information from the government.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE, 7 NAY, and 1 absent and excused.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Palmer, Holtzclaw, Alfieri, Crane (12), and Achilles.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Young, Barbieri, Scott, Andrus, Skaug, Allgood, and Gannon.** **Rep. Crane (13)** was absent/excused. **Rep. Scott** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31380: **Rep. Lambert** presented **RS 31380** explaining this proposed legislation honors **Paul Nettleton** who is retiring after 50 years of service in the volunteer sheriff's posse. His work began in 1973 as a volunteer special deputy for the rangers. He then spent decades covering the over 7600 square miles of Owyhee County much of which can only be reached by foot or by horse. This proposed legislation thanks him for his many years of successful service.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 31380.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30962C1: **Rep. Redman** presented **RS 30962C1** explaining this proposed legislation seeks to solve a problem he has seen in which areas with high wildfire risk are not renewed by insurance companies. This seeks to resolve this in two ways. First, it establishes a group which will work on thinning out some of the high risk areas. Second, it sets up a reinsurance pool to assist in stabilizing the market. In response to committee questions, Rep. Redman clarified Idaho has been lucky with wildfires, but this legislation is also in response to a larger national trend.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 30962C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31139: **Rep. Redman** presented **RS 31139** explaining this proposed legislation prevents any political subdivision from regulating knives and features exemptions for schools and courthouses. He affirmed this is a second amendment issue, as knives are considered arms. Thirteen other states have passed similar legislation. In response to committee questions, Rep. Redman stated this bill would come back to this committee for a full hearing.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 31139**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31413: **Rep. Redman** presented **RS 31413** explaining this draft legislation is a free market solution to help solve the housing crisis by allowing single family zoned property to include duplexes. He stated often the solution for these problems is to deregulate and this would do that by allowing for extra doors on property. In response to committee questions, Rep. Redman confirmed this would allow for duplexes on single family zoning throughout the state so long as those duplexes meet the utilities qualifications. He further explained this is not meant to eliminate single family housing in Idaho, just allow for more doors. He confirmed it allows for duplexes anywhere they meet regulation, though his belief is the market will dictate much of where they are actually built.

MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to return **RS 31413** to sponsor.

Rep. Alfieri spoke to his motion stating he believes this legislation would eliminate single family housing across the state.

Rep. Holtzclaw continued the presentation stating this is a piece of proposed property rights legislation. He highlighted this would not add to the density of what can currently be put on these lots. In response to committee questions, Rep. Holtzclaw clarified all regulations must still be followed by duplexes and shared it is his understanding this legislation would receive a hearing in the House Business Committee.

Discussion on the motion was held. Committee members expressed concern about ADUs and duplexes being compared in testimony, as well as the lack of local control in the proposed legislation. Other committee members affirmed duplexes encompass a range of different homes and styles and urged caution in characterizing them negatively.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM.

Representative Young
Chair

Kennedy Jones
Secretary