

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 27, 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 (12)

**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.

**Chairman Crane (13)** called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**H 497:** **Rep. Ehardt** presented **H 497** explaining this legislation addresses people serving in multiple offices by declaring a city or local elected office vacant if the same person wins another larger office. In response to committee questions, Rep. Ehardt clarified elected officials do have more power and authority which should not be compounded.

**Kelley Packer**, Association of Idaho Cities, testified **in opposition** to **H 497** stating it is difficult in small communities to find people to run or office and serve. There are rules in place to address holding multiple offices, and this should be left to the voters to decide.

**Rep. Ehardt** closed debate highlighting it is not only small communities which have elected officials serving in multiple offices, but large as well.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **H 497** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Allgood and Achilles** requested to be recorded voting **NAY. Rep. Ehardt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 477:** **Rep. Furniss** presented **H 477** explaining current law requires there to be 3,000 signatures on a petition to withdraw from an auditorium district. However, some places do not have 3,000 voters in their electorate. This changes the language to be either 3,000 signatures or 15% of the electorate to sign the petition to dissolve the auditorium district. This was brought forward because some cities want to ensure they are able to dissolve a district before they join one.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to send **H 477** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Furniss** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 560:** **Rep. Tanner** presented **H 560** explaining this legislation deals with large scale financial institutions and prohibits their ability to discriminate against customers based on non-financial social scores based on an example seen between JP Morgan Chase and The National Committee for Religious Freedom. In response to committee questions, he clarified the changes between this version and the coming RS are adjustments in which statutes are impacted to avoid any gaps in statute.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to **HOLD H 560** in committee.

**Michael Ross**, Alliance Defending Freedom, testified in support of **H 560** stating no one should fear they could lose their banking, especially when large banks are too large to fail. In response to committee questions, Mr. Ross clarified this legislation correctly targets only large banks because they receive immense public benefits and are the worst actors in this case. He also asserted the current market is not a free one, and this legislation is a market correction.

**Rep. Achilles** spoke in support of the motion stating algorithmic bias is a large problem and rather than set a rule, legislation should seek to create an auditing function.

**Rep. Gannon** spoke in support of the motion explaining legislation should not target specific banks. The free market should allow for other smaller banks to help people who feel unsure about larger banks.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 31473:**

**Rep. Tanner** presented **RS 31473** explaining this proposed legislation is a redraft of **H 560** with added language dealing with Protection Act 48605 and another deals with National Banking State Statute tying them both together.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 31473** and recommend it be sent directly to the second reading calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Tanner** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 31522:**

**Rep. Rubel** presented **RS 31522** explaining this is a redraft of the Fair Elections Act addressing the use of deep fake audio and video in elections. This version does not include changing the 30 day electioneering period to 60 days for a primary and focuses solely on the use of deep fakes in elections. She reiterated it does not prevent AI media, but if media is manipulated one must disclose it was manipulated.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 31522.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 31495C2:**

**Rep. Hill** presented **RS 31495C2** explaining this proposed legislation deals with China and National Security by prohibiting foreign adversaries from purchasing land near military bases, and protect critical infrastructure including water, gas, telecommunications, emergency services, transportation, and personal storage. Individuals seeking to work at these organizations must be thoroughly vetted. In response to committee questions, Rep. Hill explained this idea was brought to him by a non-profit think tank which helps states across the country implement security measures. He affirmed this may cost more to the state, but it is vital all employees are screened before handling Idaho's critical resources. He expressed there is minimal anticipated confiscation in this bill, it is more preemptive.

**MOTION:**

**RS 31495C2** died for lack of a motion.

**RS 31518:**

**Rep. Ehlers** presented **RS 31518** stating state dollars should not go to foreign enemies. This proposed legislation defines foreign adversaries, defines investments, and asks for a report to know how much of state investment funds go to foreign adversaries to be created by the fiscal year end date. The goal is, this report will give the legislature the information they need to draft future legislation on this topic.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 31518.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 31477:**

**Rep. Pickett** presented **RS 31477** explaining the United States is coming up on the 250 year anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. America250 is a national initiative to celebrate this occasion which Idaho will join. This proposed legislation gives authority to establish an advisory council for Idaho's participation in America250.

**MOTION:** Rep. Scott made a motion to introduce **RS 31477. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 31465:** Rep. Kingsley presented **RS 31465** explaining this proposed legislation prevents political parties from mailing absentee ballot requests. In response to committee questions, Rep. Kingsley clarified a person can still request an absentee ballot for themselves for any of the existing reasons, and they can do so electronically. This only limits instances in which a ballot can be requested for someone else.

**MOTION:** Rep. Scott made a motion to introduce **RS 31465. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 31516:** Rep. Skaug presented **RS 31516** explaining this is a redraft of legislation this committee saw earlier this session. This version removed an incorrect reference in Idaho Code. This proposed legislation prohibits providers of abortion from publishing sex education curricula in schools.

**MOTION:** Rep. Alfieri made a motion to introduce **RS 31516. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 31528:** Rep. Young presented **RS 31528** explaining this a replacement draft for **H 520** which ensures tax payer dollars are not used for gender transition surgeries. This version clarifies one of the included exemptions applies to both adults and minors.

**MOTION:** Rep. Barbieri made a motion to introduce **RS 31528. Motion carried by voice vote**

**H 486:** Rep. Allgood presented **H 486** explaining this bill helps the Idaho Veterans Home deal with intangible property if veterans in the home pass away and don't have any written directive. Rep. Allgood deferred committee questions to **Mark Chample**, Idaho Division of Veterans Service, who explained intangible property, often money, is given directly to the State Treasurer. Tangible property such as clothes or belongings can be claimed by a next of kin for up to 12 months, at which time it becomes the property of the home.

**MOTION:** Rep. Andrus made a motion to send **H 486** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** Rep. Allgood will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM.

---

Representative Crane (13)  
Chair

---

Kennedy Jones  
Secretary