

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 19, 2021
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:** None
GUESTS: Brody Aston, Westerburg Associates
Chairman Crane called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

RS 28209: **Rep. Nate** presented **RS 28209** which would allow the State Treasurer's office to hold gold and silver as part of its investment portfolio. Other states are holding these precious metals as part of their portfolios because it carries a lower risk. This bill does not mandate the purchase of gold or silver but would allow the option to purchase them. Currently, there is a negative real rate of return on cash investments. The gold and silver would be held in Idaho or in a joining state in a secure depository, possibly Utah. It would be separated from other holdings in the depository and like any investment, there would be small holding fees.

In response to questions, **Rep. Nate** explained the Underwriters Laboratory is a global safety certification company that sets standards for secure and safe depositories. The State Treasurer's team of investors would determine the percentage of gold and/or silver to hold, if desired. It serves as a hedge against inflation. Typically, as inflation increases, the value of gold and silver also increases. He said gold and silver can be good long-term investments because they are more stable.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 28209**. **Motion carried by voice Vote.** **Rep. Furniss** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

RS 28252: **Rep. Nate** presented **RS 28252** to mandate transparency in bond and levy elections by requiring full disclosure of anticipated tax increases to voters. The proposed legislation would preclude additional distracting information about other bond and levy obligations, not impacted by the outcome of the ballot question.

MOTION: **Rep. Hanks** made a motion to introduce **RS 28252**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Kelly Staskey
Secretary