

MINUTES
HOUSE BUSINESS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Dixon, Vice Chairman Furniss, Representatives Crane, Palmer (Palmer), Barbieri, Armstrong (Armstrong), DeMordaunt, Clow, Andrus, Nichols, Adams, Bundy, Ferch, Galloway, Mitchell, Shepherd, Berch, Green

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Dixon, DeMordaunt

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 Furniss called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

H 473: **Rep. Nichols** introduced **H 473**. This bill makes the following changes to Idaho Law under Sections 6-321: Adding both the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the National Credit Union Administration for the purposes of holding security deposits for residential rental premises managed by a third-party.

Spencer Harrison, Realty Management Associates Inc. spoke in support of **H 473**. From the perspective of a property manager, he recommended an amendment to Section 21 which currently reads, "...30 days after surrender of the premises by the tenant." He suggested a change to say, "... after the conclusion of the tenancy." Mr. Harrison clarified tenants sometimes surrender a premises to the property manager early but it may not be the conclusion of their tenancy. If the time limit is left at 30 days, it may prohibit the property manager from taking full accounting for the entire period of tenancy.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Harrison** said this section of **H 473** will create issues for those who do not specify a time limit in their rental agreement and the tenant surrenders the premises early.

In closing, **Rep. Nichols** said there are a few additional changes needed to this legislation but this change will be beneficial to many people.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to send **H 473** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Nichols** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 581: **Rep. Shepherd** introduced **H 581**. This legislation ensures the individual rights of employees to not be discriminated against in the work force because of their vaccination status, in regard to COVID-19 or any other emergency use authorized vaccine.

Rep. Shepherd stated big government and big business has overstepped their bounds. He said this bill will not effect anyone who works for a company that does not mandate vaccines.

In response to questions, **Rep. Shepherd** said **H 581** will not create a new protected class. He stated because of the Supreme Court ruling, this bill will not cover workers in the health care industry, federal employees or anyone outside of the United States. Rep. Shepherd clarified many definitions are already in code and **H 581** is another piece to the puzzle to provide protection for workers. He said there is nothing in this bill stating a company cannot close their doors if there is a danger. Rep. Shepherd said he would rather see a business close its doors rather than mandate a vaccine.

Dr. Howard Bowers, representing himself, spoke **in support** of the bill. He said it should include health care workers. He expressed the bill does not go far enough but any steps the Legislature can take to limit overreach should be made.

MOTION:

Rep. Crane made a motion to send **H 581** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. He said it is a good bill and wishes it could be extended to health care workers and federal employees. Rep. Crane stated **H 581** works to restore rights back to the employee.

During committee discussion, **Rep. Green** stated she will not support the motion because **H 581** is counter to what this committee is all about. The Business Committee should be doing more to empower businesses and give them the tools they need to be successful.

Rep. Adams stated he will support the motion. He voiced concern about how the employer is defined, to not include workers in the health care field and believes the bill will present some unintended consequences.

Rep. Ferch stated he will support the motion. He said businesses have been interfering with traditional doctor patient relationships. Decisions to receive a vaccine should remain with the individual. Despite the vaccine mandate, the local hospital is currently operating under the crisis standard of care because so many employees are sick.

Rep. Berch stated he will not support the motion because if the legislature passes a law which allows anyone to spread a disease, it is not good law or public policy. There needs to be a balance between individual freedoms and responsibility to the community. This current situation may not reflect future situations.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote. **Rep. Green** and **Rep. Berch** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Shepherd** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Representative Dixon
Chair

Kelly Staskey
Secretary