

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 22, 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:** 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.

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

H 464: **Senator Hart** presented **H 464** explaining this legislation would create an interstate border compact with Texas as is allowed in Article 1 Section 10 of the US Constitution. He recalled during a visit to the US boarder in Texas seeing 66 people who had crossed in one night. He stated this legislation has the best potential to help with the drug problem in the US, by allowing Idaho to take aggressive action with Texas and sending the message the legislature will support the Governor in his support of Texas.

Rep. Wisniewski continued the presentation highlighting two things needed in the definition of invasion. First a person has to enter and second they must have an intent to do harm. He stated these conditions have been met because illegal aliens are overrunning social institutions in the United States and contribute to the drug problems in America.

Julianne Donnelly Tzul, ACLU of Idaho, testified **in opposition** to **H 464**. She urged opposition to the legislation emphasizing how legislation describes other human beings matters and the language of this bill can be hurtful. In response to committee questions, Ms. Donnelly Tzul explained the number of immigrants in Idaho is stable at 35,000 and highlighted immigrants are moving to the US only when there is a great need. She further highlighted this body's jurisdiction is Idaho and the immigration data of Idaho should be paramount.

Senator Nichols testified **in support** of **H 464** recounting her time at the US boarder in Texas last spring. She affirmed they do not have a complete understanding of how many people are entering the US each day as not all are apprehended, and of those apprehended many were on a terrorist watch list. In response to committee questions, Senator Nichols explained though the focus of testimony was been the Mexico/ US Boarder, there is concern regarding the Canadian boarder as well.

Rep. Wisniewski closed debate acknowledging immigrants are human beings, but it is important for them to enter the US legally. He provided further statistics regarding the volume at the Canadian and Mexican boarders stating 78 percent of illegal immigrants are coming from the Mexico boarder. In response to committee questions, Rep. Wisniewski clarified this legislation does not require legislative approval for the Governor to act because if there is an immediate issue he should not have to call the legislature back into session in order to act.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to send **H 464** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Gannon spoke in **opposition** to the motion explaining in addition to authorizing the Governor to act regarding the southern boarder, this legislation also authorized a wall at the Canadian boarder and a surveillance system on state land which he feels is a lot of authority and expense without strong evidence of a problem at that boarder.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. Gannon made a substitute motion to send **H 464** to General Orders.

Rep. Scott spoke in **opposition** to the substitute motion stating as a representative from north Idaho she can confirm there is a security concern at the northern boarder as well.

Rep. Young spoke in **support** of the substitute motion stating while she is supportive of concerns about the boarder, she is uncomfortable granting open-ended authority to the Governor.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Motion failed by a vote of 2 AYES and 11 NAYS. Voting in favor of the motion: **Reps. Young and Gannon. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Crane (13), Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Andrus, Skaug, Alfieri, Allgood, Crane (12), and Achilles.**

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Wisniewski will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 31200:

Rep. Miller presented **RS 31200** explaining this proposed legislation codifies gold and silver coin as an official tender in Idaho. Transactions require a willing seller and buyer, so no one can be forced to use gold and silver coins, but the option is there if it is preferred. In response to committee questions, Rep. Miller explained this legislation would allow for gold or silver coins which were minted anywhere foreign or domestic, and clarified this removes capital gains tax on gold and silver which has occurred in code before, though this instance is broader.

MOTION:

Rep. Allgood made a motion to introduce **RS 31200**.

Rep. Barbieri spoke in **support** of the motion stating while he understand concerns about taxation of gold and silver, the value of those changes in relation to the dollar and inflation, not increased value of the actual material.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote.

RS 31331:

Rep. Pickett presented **RS 31331** explaining this proposed legislation relates to inflationary adjustments by increasing the threshold for public works from 50,000 to 100,000.

MOTION:

Rep. Andrus made a motion to introduce **RS 31331. Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Crane (13) and Rep. Crane (12)** declared rule 80.

RS 31446:

Rep. Pickett presented **RS 31446** explaining there are currently two different definitions regarding the boundaries between Cassia and Minidoka county leaving portions of ground in the river non-recordable in both counties. This proposed legislation seeks to codify and make consistent the language defining the boundaries and has the approval of both county commissioners.

MOTION:

Rep. Andrus made a motion to introduce **RS 31446. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31458:

Rep. Pickett presented **RS 31458** explaining this proposed legislation outlines the ability of court to appoint a guardian ad litem during court hearings. This issue was brought forward by a constituent already doing this, but wanting assurance in code.

MOTION: Rep. Andrus made a motion to introduce **RS 31458. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31438: Rep. Barbieri presented **RS 31438** explaining this is a reintroduction of a previous draft legislation in this committee. This version includes the word law in the phrase interpretation or the law or rule.

MOTION: Rep. Scott made a motion to introduce **RS 31438. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31425: Rep. Alfieri presented **RS 31425** explaining this proposed legislation seeks to clarify who electors are in the state of Idaho. In order to vote in Idaho a person must be a citizen of the state of Idaho, reside here for at least 30 days, and must be a citizen of the United States. In response to committee questions, Rep. Alfieri clarified the 30 day minimum was previously in statute.

MOTION: Rep. Scott made a motion to introduce **RS 31425. Motion carried by voice vote**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:52 AM.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Kennedy Jones
Secretary