

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 08, 2017

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Loertscher, Vice Chairman Monks, Representatives Luker, Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Harris, Armstrong, Giddings, Manwaring, Zito, Scott, Smith, Jordan

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Jordan

GUESTS: Morgan Howard, Intern, Senator Dan Johnson's Office; Larry Johnson, Endowment Fund Investment Board

Chairman Loertscher called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

MOTION: **Rep. Luker** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2017 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1017: **Morgan Howard**, Intern, Senator Dan Johnson's Office, presented **S 1017**. The purpose of this legislation is to clarify and increase the efficiency of election notification processes in rural fire districts, and to bring those processes into compliance with Idaho Code § 34-602. The existing election notification processes in rural fire districts were formerly in compliance with Idaho Code § 31-1427 Subsection 2. The legislation would change the 30-day notice deadline for advertisements for special elections in rural fire districts, as published in one or more local publications, to a 12-day and 5-day notice deadline prior to the election.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Howard** stated the 30-day notice changing to a 12- and 5-day notice system prior to the election is an effort to streamline Idaho Code, providing an example of the Wheatland Fire District bond election in which the advertisers were unsure whether to comply with Idaho Code § 34-602 or the 30-day notice rule. This District ended up doing both, causing confusion.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Howard** stated that reducing the notice deadline for bond elections from 30 days to 12 and 5 days should not have a detrimental effect on Idaho voters. The legislation is meant simply to clarify the regulations and bring them into compliance. The only difference is that the fire board, instead of having to pay for running a 30-day election, now has to pay for two notices at 12 and 5 days prior to voting day.

Tim Hurst, Chief Deputy, Idaho Secretary of State's Office, spoke **in opposition** to **S 1017**, stating the reference to Idaho Code § 34-602 in **S 1017** is incorrect, and should be Idaho Code § 34-1406, which deals with special district elections. Idaho Code § 34-602 is for the general and the primary elections.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Hurst** stated there should not be other sections of code to worry about bringing into compliance or making corrections to. Fire Districts must already comply with Idaho Code § 34-439, which deals with the disclosure of elections, and Idaho Code § 34-439a with levies. This legislation aims only to change how notice is given or requested for a bond or levy, and leaves the responsibility to the counties.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Hurst** stated changing the legislation to reference and correct the right sections, from Idaho Code § 34-602 to Idaho Code § 34-1406, will not change any time frames. Both are the same times.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Hurst** stated if the bill is edited, it will reflect the changes in code reference. The Fire Districts are currently operating under Idaho Code § 34-1406.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Hurst** stated the district currently uses the 30-day system while the county uses a 12- and 5-day system.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Hurst** stated that on the current 30-day notice deadline, notice needs to be given only once, not each day for 30 days prior to the election.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Monks** made a motion to send **S 1017** to General Orders. **Motion carried by voice vote. Vice Chairman Monks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1035: **Larry Johnson**, Endowment Fund Investment Board, presented **S 1035**. The purpose of this legislation is to change the \$50/day compensation from salary to honorarium for Endowment Fund Investment Board members. This change will make it easier to attract and retain board members because they will not be forbidden from making tax deductible IRA contributions. A "salary" makes them a PERSI member, but an honorarium does not.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **S 1035** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Armstrong** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 A.M.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Jasmine Platt
Secretary