

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 13, 2020

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Harris, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representatives Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Zito, Scott, Andrus, Hartgen, Young, Smith, Gannon, Green

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Crane, Barbieri, Zito, Gannon

GUESTS: None

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

MOTION: **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2020 meeting.
Motion carried by voice vote.

MOTION: **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 meeting.
Motion carried by voice vote.

S 1372: **Sen. Guthrie** said **S 1372** allows fire districts to be split. He said if the fire protection district board wanted to split they need to prepare a resolution for the district board, hold a hearing and then have an election. **Sen. Guthrie** said when commissioners want to split the district they need a petition with signatures from 25% of the population. He said citizens can initiate a district split petition if they choose, which would require signatures from 10% of the population. If the fire district was split, it would be split 50/50 or as decided.

In response to committee questions, **Sen. Guthrie** said he believed the bill shared language with statutes explaining how districts divide and split. He said he never got definitive support from interested parties but there is not any active opposition. **Sen. Guthrie** said the people elect commissioners so if a petition is brought forward there is a perceived need and a public hearing is another way to persuade people. He said the threshold for citizens is set lower in case they do not feel like their commission is representing them. **Sen. Guthrie** said commissioners serve four-year terms that are staggered. **Sen. Guthrie** said public pressure would ensure the process of splitting the districts and their assets and debt is fair. He said if the splitting process was going to cost the districts more money they may not do it. **Sen. Guthrie** said because this is a local decision, different areas may make different decisions.

MOTION: **Rep. Armstrong** made a motion to send **S 1372** 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 9:14 AM.

Representative Harris
Chair

Devon Powers
Secretary