

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 11, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representative(s) Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Scott, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Hanks, Skaug, Gannon, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Palmer, Monks

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 called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2022, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 441:
RS 29807:** **Rep. Troy** presented **H 441** and **RS 29807**, which is an amended replacement of the original bill. This legislation would allow for absentee ballot assistance for those in nursing care facilities to help them vote in a secure manner. The new bill will offer help to care facilities by designating three authorized sources of voter assistance. **Rep. Troy** clarified that this will only apply to qualifying facilities that reach out to the clerk's office for assistance.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Troy** stated the training given to the volunteers will help them understand how to be non-partisan and what questions they can and cannot answer. She stated the Secretary of State's office will draft the rules and guidelines.

Kathy Dawes spoke **in opposition** of the bill, stating that an individual living in an assisted living facility should have the freedom to choose who they would like to assist them in their voting process. She stated the elections office already has the option to assist the public, but no action has taken place yet. She stated there is a large fiscal impact with adding employment and spending the time to train employees.

Rep. Troy restated this bill will only go into effect if the assisted living facility calls the county election office to ask for assistance for their residents. She stated it is not required, it is only a service. This allows for an opportunity to receive assistance that is non-partisan when filling out their ballots. She stated that she worked with AARP and that they are in support of the language added to the bill.

Rep. Mathias stated he has concerns that this bill is trying to do too much, and **Rep. Scott** testified in agreement with the concerns.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to **HOLD H 441** in committee.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** **Rep. Furniss** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 441** in committee to the call of the chair.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of, 8 AYE, 4 NAY, and 2 Absent/Excused.** Those voting in favor of the motion: **Chairman Crane, Reps. Holtzclaw, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Skaug, Gannon, and Mathias.** Those voting in opposition to the motion: **Vice Chairman Armstrong, Reps. Barbieri, Scott, and Hanks. Reps. Palmer and Monks** were Absent/Excused.

MOTION:

Rep. Furniss made a motion to **RETURN RS 29807** to the sponsor. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29800:

Rep. Dixon presented **RS 29800** as a replacement to **H 740**, which is a refugee bill that requires non-governmental agencies to report certain information to the county when aiding in the relocation of refugees. The added language is that the reporting of the refugees should be done quarterly. The required information no longer includes the name of the refugee and the reason for their relocation.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Dixon** stated the departments receiving this information would be the Governor, the Department of Health & Welfare, and the Department of Labor. In line 38, there is a public records disclosure, which would be prohibited to the public. He also stated the listed entities cannot reject these refugees from entering a city or county.

MOTION:

Rep. Scott made a motion to introduce **RS 29800** with the new verbiage changes, and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Gannon and Mathias** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Dixon** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Haley Villa
Secretary