

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 24, 2014  
**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room EW40  
**MEMBERS:** Chairman Loertscher, Vice Chairman Batt, Representative(s) Anderson(1), Andrus, Luker, Crane, Palmer, Sims, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, McMillan, Monks, Packer, Smith, Gannon, Woodings  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Anderson(1)  
**GUESTS:** Cozette Walters, State Treasurer's Office; Rob Shoplock, Professional Firefighters of Idaho; Maryanne Jordan, City of Boise; Shaun Laughlin, Professional Firefighters of Idaho; Wayne Hoffman, Idaho Freedom Foundation; Amber Renee City of Boise.

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

**H 487:** **Rep. Harris** presented **H 487**, a bill that requires labor negotiations for public employees be conducted in open session. He stated provision currently allows either side to request closed meetings regarding labor negotiations to be held in executive sessions.

**Chairman Loertscher** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Batt**.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Harris** stated open sessions are important because public service employees' benefits and wages are the public's business.

**Rob Shoplock**, Professional Firefighters of Idaho, stated he **is opposed** to **H 487** because by making labor negotiations for public employees public, it puts the personal lives of employees such as firefighters on the frontline for the media to take personal information and make it public. He stated labor negotiations are not enjoyable but are worked through carefully by both sides. He stated that the actual voting on public employee benefits and wages is public but negotiations are not. He said they should keep to the current practice of private negotiations.

**Maryanne Jordan**, President, Boise City Council, stated she **is opposed** to **H 487** because there is no problem with the way labor negotiations are currently handled. She stated there has not been a problem in eleven years. She said labor negotiations are personal matters.

**Vice Chairman Batt** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Loertscher**.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Jordan** stated deliberations and negotiations are different. She said deliberations are guideposts in starting negotiations.

**Wayne Hoffman**, President, Idaho Freedom Foundation, stated he is **in support** of **H 487** because the current statute is problematic. He stated it would not be difficult for public employees to figure out how to negotiate their labor contracts without divulging personal information. He said this bill allows private negotiation meetings between managers.

**Rep. Harris** was recognized to close testimony on **H 487**. He explained that disciplinary actions, hiring of officers, would still be in executive session if this bill was passed. He stated that meaningful democracy can be messy but it is necessary.

- MOTION:** **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to send **H 487** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. He spoke to the motion stating the language is clear.
- SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Gannon** made a substitute motion to send **H 487** to General Orders with an amendment to restore the proposed struck language in Section 1(c) to state: "To conduct deliberations concerning labor negotiations or to acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency."
- VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Chairman Loertscher** called for a vote on the substitute motion to send **H 487** to General Orders with an amendment to restore the proposed struck language in Section 1(c) to state: "To conduct deliberations concerning labor negotiations or to" acquire an interest in real property which is not owned by a public agency. **Motion failed by voice vote. Reps. Luker and Gannon** requested to be recorded as voting **AYE**.
- VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Chairman Loertscher** called for a vote on the original motion to send **H 487** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Gannon, Smith and Woodings** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Harris** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 508:** **Cozette Walters**, State Treasurer's Office, Administrator of Unclaimed Property, presented **H 508** a bill that clarifies the Unclaimed Property Program can conduct outreach and education on unclaimed property throughout the state. The bill also makes a technical clarification concerning the notice of escheatment.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Woodings** made a motion to send **H 508** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Woodings** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

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Representative Loertscher  
Chair

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Kasey Perkins  
Secretary