

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 19, 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.

RS 31387C1: **Rep. Moyle** presented **RS 31387C1** explaining this proposed legislation addresses ballot harvesting and is similar to legislation this committee has seen in the past with key differences addressing Senators' concerns about caregivers and their ability to collect and deliver ballots. He affirmed this is a more constrictive, better draft than previous versions of this legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 31387C1. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31246: **Rep. Mathias** presented **RS 31246** explaining this proposed legislation addresses organized retail theft which occurs when a group of people robs multiple stores in a short amount of time. This draft legislation defines this crime for the first time with the following stipulations; there are at least two people involved in an intent to steal over \$1500, they steal with the intent to resell, or they steal frequently as seen by them being convicted twice. In addition to defining the crime, this proposed legislation also designates that all penalties be higher for the ringleader of a group. In response to committee questions, Rep. Mathias clarified he had not come across any information these crimes are being committed by illegal immigrant gangs.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 31246.**

Rep. Gannon spoke **in support** of the motion stating he attended a meeting at a local Albertsons where they confirmed the current lack of definition makes it incredibly hard to charge for this particular crime.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 31238: **Rep. Allgood** presented **RS 31238** explaining this proposed legislation helps law enforcement and prosecutors to charge correctly in domestic violence cases. Currently when a domestic violence case involves strangulation, they will charge strangulation because the punishment is more severe, however this charge then does not count toward their total domestic violence offences. This proposed legislation would allow prosecutors to link those offences so the strangulation is counted as a domestic violence offence. In response to committee questions, Rep. Allgood clarified domestic violence will need to be proven if they want to link the charges, but the ability to charge for strangulation alone will still exist. He also clarified while the difficulty of proving domestic violence is challenging for law enforcement, this legislation does not address that issue.

- MOTION:** **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to introduce **RS 31238. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31380:** **Chairman Crane (13)** announced to the committee that **RS 31380** would be held in possession of the committee.
- RS 31386:** **Rep. Dixon (1)** presented **RS 31386** explaining this is a new draft of legislation previously seen this session involving civil immunity for religious organization security teams. This new draft has two key language changes on lines 21-22 using the term 'membership' and again on lines 36-37 which was updated to mirror contemporary trial lawyer language.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 31386. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31245:** **Rep. Dixon (1)** presented **RS 31245** explaining this proposed legislation would give teachers greater control of paychecks and prevent public funds going to private organizations by prohibiting public funds from going to a teacher union, prohibiting teachers unions from using a school building for any kind of reduced rate, and prohibiting coercing anyone to be part of a union. In response to committee questions, Rep. Dixon (1) expressed he was open to finding the best solution between the terms 'taxpayer funds' and 'public funds'.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 31245.**
- Rep. Achilles** spoke to the motion stating he would be interested in receiving more information about cost estimates of union expenses as compared to the full education budget, as well as information comparing student performance in schools where teachers are in active unions versus where they are not.
- VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31391:** **Rep. Monks** presented **RS 31391** explaining this committee has seen **H 463** this session. Concerns were raised around that bill and how it would effect athletic events at universities. This new draft adds language allowing state education institutions to get authorization for donations or sponsorships from the university president. The mandatory reports will remain the same and give new insight into when and how often these sponsorships occur.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 31391. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31362:** **Rep. Wheeler** presented **RS 31362** explaining this proposed legislation adjusts the Electrical Practice Act which passed last session by adding a requirement that a signing journeyman must have 2,000 hours of documented work as a journeyman.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to introduce **RS 31362. Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 31061:** **Rep. Gallagher** presented **RS 31061** explaining this proposed legislation requires an annual notice stating public employees cannot be forced to join a union or pay union dues as a condition of their job. Public employees are not currently notified about their rights to obtain or withdraw from a union. This proposed legislation further states the private contact information of public employees cannot be shared with a union without their consent. In response to committee questions, Rep. Gallagher clarified this would require the employer to notify employees, not the union and reaffirmed employees' contact information should be protected. Addressing questions about labor law posters which are required to be posted, she stated not many people read those. She cited her personal experience in which she was never made away she did not have to join the union and reaffirmed all employees information should be protected and not shared.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 31061. Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to approve the minutes February 14, 2024.
Motion carried by voice vote.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting
adjourned at 9:31 AM.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Kennedy Jones
Secretary