

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 19, 2012

TIME: 9:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Loertscher, Vice Chairman Crane, Representative(s) Stevenson, Black, Anderson, Andrus, Bilbao, Luker, Palmer, Simpson, Guthrie, Henderson, McGeachin, Sims, Batt, Smith(30), King, Higgins, Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None.

GUESTS: Tim Hurst, Chief Deputy, Secretary of State; Jesse Taylor, Westerberg & Associates.
Vice-Chairman Crane called the meeting to order at 9:29 a.m.

RS20988: **Rep. Loertscher** presented **RS20988** to the committee. Rep. Loertscher explained that with the primary election in May, this has created a dilemma for candidates. It has extended campaigning and the political season for Idaho. Rep. Loertscher indicated that this legislation would move the primary election to August and move the filing date from the current date in February to May. Rep. Loertscher stated that prior to Idaho getting to hold a presidential primary, the primary election was held in August. He noted this legislation will eliminate all references to presidential primary election and presidential preference primary election from Idaho Code.

In response to questions **Rep. Loertscher** clarified that some of the county clerks do not agree with the proposed primary election date since it will occur at a time when they are planning their budgets. Rep. Loertscher stated that the legislature needs to look at the timing of the primary election this year since the Supreme Court has ruled the redistricting plan invalid.

MOTION: **Rep. Stevenson** made a motion to introduce **RS20988. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Rep. Anderson stated that while he is in favor of the proposed legislation he has reservations about the timing of the primary and general elections. He noted that this proposed legislation would increase the political time for candidates.

RS20871: **Tim Hurst**, Chief Deputy; Secretary of State, presented **RS20871** to the committee. Mr. Hurst explained the proposed legislation will simply remove presidential primary and presidential preference primary from the Idaho Code. He noted there is no presidential primary in Idaho since parties caucus now. Mr. Hurst stated that removal of the presidential primary from the primary election will save on ballot printing costs. It will also clear up voter confusion as to why presidential candidates are on the ballot when they have already been chosen.

MOTION: **Rep. King** made a motion to introduce **RS20871. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice-Chairman Crane noted the committee will be meeting on Friday, January 20th upon adjournment of the House.

ADJOURN: There being no further business before the committee; the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Representative Crane
Vice-Chair

Lissa Cochran
Secretary