

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 06, 2012

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Anderson

GUESTS: Glenn Miles, Citizens to Keep Presidential Preference Primary; Tim Hurst, Office of the Secretary of State; Max Greenlee, Risch Pisca; Tony Poinelli, Idaho Association of Counties

Chairman Loertscher called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

H 391: **Tim Hurst**, Office of the Secretary of State, presented **H 391**, which eliminates the presidential preference primary. He stated that both parties choose their presidential delegates through a caucus now with the Republicans to hold their caucus on March 6th and the Democrats on April 14th. The primary election would be held after the parties caucus and the decision will have already been made. Mr. Hurst stated that it costs \$60,000.00 to reimburse the counties for the cost of preparation to include presidential candidates on the primary election ballot. This is a waste of money and serves no public purpose. This leads to voter confusion when they think they are voting for something that has already been decided. The proposed legislation is not taking away the right to vote. They can still attend the caucus and still vote for the presidential candidates in the general election.

In response to concern about the military not being able to vote in a caucus, **Tim Hurst** stated the parties run the caucus not the Legislature.

Chairman Loertscher turned the gavel over to **Vice-Chairman Crane**.

Glenn Miles, Citizens to Keep Presidential Preference Primary, testified in **opposition to H 391**. The presidential primary did make a difference at one time. The presidential primary offers the opportunity to make a difference in the outcome of the election and every citizen wants the right to choose the highest position; commander-in-chief. That is why they come out to vote.

Tim Hurst was recognized to close testimony on **H 391**. He stated the first presidential primary in Idaho occurred in 1976. Voter participation was poor and that is why they combined them. If the caucus is going to mean something, then it needs to mean something.

MOTION: **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to send **H 391** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Loertscher** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee; the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Representative Crane
Vice Chairman

Lissa Cochran
Secretary