

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 08, 2012
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW20
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Boyle, Representative(s) Lake, Stevenson, Trail, Bolz, Shirley, Patrick, McMillan, Batt, Pence, Lacey
- ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None.
- GUESTS:** Kevin Merritt, Fred Rios, ISDA; Gretchen Hyde, IRRRC; Lisa Kauffman, HSUS; Bill Barton, ISDA; Rick Waitley, Benjamin Kelly, Food Producers of Idaho; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; Brent Olmstead, MPIIdaho; Stan Boyd, IWGA; Kent Lauer, Idaho Farm Bureau
- Chairman Andrus** called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Pence** made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday, February 6, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 389:** **Kevin Merritt**, Idaho Department of Agriculture, said the intent of this legislation is to bring the weights and measures program in line where it can stand on its own merit. He said they want this to be a user paid program. This legislation will allow the funds to be moved into a dedicated source, where it will be more manageable and self sufficient. Mr. Merritt reviewed the costs of the program and said this will reduce the General Fund.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Trail** made a motion to send **H 389** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Trail** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- RS 21201:** **Rep. Bolz** said this proposed legislation makes major changes to Idaho Code. He reviewed the changes, saying this will create labeling standards for honey and revises definitions and defines terms. He said it creates a new chapter which revises the duties of the Commission, these duties follow the same kind of procedures as other commissions in agriculture. He said it provides for the promulgation of rules. **Rep. Bolz** said this issue was brought to his attention based on written complaints on the retail sale level. He said this legislation will also provide for penalties for violations.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Shirley** made a motion to introduce **RS 21201.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 21126C1:** **Rep. Trail** said he has discovered the need for additional information on this proposed legislation.
- UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:** **Chairman Andrus** made a unanimous consent request to return **RS 21126C1** to the sponsor. There being no objection, the request was granted.
- RS 20873C1:** **Rep. Trail** reviewed the history of this animal cruelty legislation. He said there has been a number of attempts to pass this type of legislation. He reviewed the changes in the legislation, saying it revises a definition and defines the term torture. He said this provides penalties for violations which is the main content of the proposal.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Lacy** made a motion to introduce **RS 20873C1**. **Rep. Lake** requested a roll call vote. **Motion failed by a vote of 3 AYE, 8 NAY, 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Trail, Pence and Lacey. Voting in opposition** of the motion: **Reps. Boyle, Lake, Stevenson, Shirley, Patrick, McMillan, Batt and Andrus. Rep. Bolz was Absent/Excused.**

**RS 21061:** **Rep. Trail** said this proposed legislation concerns cockfighting. He said the penalty for cockfighting will be the same as for dog fighting. **Rep. Trail** gave an example of cockfighting. He said this legislation is simple and straight forward in that it changes the status of the penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony upon conviction.

In answers to questions from the Committee, **Rep. Trail** said a spectator is not indicated in the legislation as participating in the cockfighting. He said in would only be those who are handling the fighting cocks.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Pence** made a motion to introduce **RS 21061**. **Rep. Lake** requested a roll call vote. **Motion failed by a vote of 3 AYE, 8 NAY, 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Trail, Pence and Lacey. Voting in opposition** of the motion: **Reps. Boyle, Lake, Stevenson, Shirley, Patrick, McMillan, Batt and Andrus. Rep. Bolz was Absent/Excused.**

**RS 21176:** **Stan Boyd**, Idaho Wool Growers Assoc., said the Idaho Sheep Commission was established in 1929 and was created to regulate animal health in Idaho. He said the Commission is in the Division of Animal Industries within the Department of Agriculture and they work closely with the Department on animal health issues. He said the Commission does receive General Fund money. He said it has been suggested the Commission change its name to alleviate confusion with other Commissions that were created to promote their industries. **Mr. Boyd** said the main purpose of this proposed legislation is to change the name of the Idaho Sheep Commission to the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board. He said another change is to the assessment the Commission collects. It will raise the assessment ceiling to 12 cents, but will not raise the actual assessment of 6 cents per pound of wool sold, at this time. **Mr. Boyd** said this will also repeal two sections regarding audit requirements, since the Commission is part of Animal Industries and it is a self auditing system, there was no need for this requirement.

**Mr. Boyd** answered questions from the Committee regarding the assessments coming from wool and how they would collect assessments from goats. He said they have discussed having the assessment be prorated per head if there is no wool involved.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McMillan** made a motion to introduce **RS 21176. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Gretchen Hyde**, Executive Director, Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, said they have worked with good people in the state. She said their vision and goals have continued and they have made a lot of accomplishments over the years. She said the Commission has continued to be a flagship for range programs and they have extended their outreach through the internet. **Ms. Hyde** said they've worked closely with state and federal agencies and they work through partnership to obtain similar goals. She said they continue to do educational campaigns and are working on increasing the ability to have information for K-12 on rangelands. She said they continue to post videos and stories on the "Life on the Range" website. She said the Commission is in the process of updating their website. She reviewed the changes to their website and said the website has gotten positive feedback. **Ms. Hyde** said they continue to work closely with the University of Idaho on teacher workshops and the University has elevated their range center. **Ms. Hyde** reviewed their financial statements and said they have worked hard to streamline their projects.

**Frank Muir**, President/CEO, Idaho Potato Commission, said he appreciated being here and said he will focus on the financial side of the Commission for his report. He said over the last year their focus has been on revenue and the revenue has exceeded the budget. He said they had the reserve to spend more money and the Commissioners approved the spending. He said an incremental amount of dollars went to pay for the Idaho Potato Bowl game. He said they are now in a six year contract for the bowl game. He said since the bowl game the Commission has had 4 million media impressions. Mr. Muir said their next project is the Idaho Potato Tour. He gave a review of the budget and explained some other sources of revenue.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

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Representative Andrus  
Chairman

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Susan Werlinger  
Secretary