

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 21, 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, Batt, Smith(30), King, Higgins, Buckner-Webb  
**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Stevenson, Simpson, Higgins, Buckner-Webb  
**GUESTS:** None

**Chairman Loertscher** called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Rep. Batt** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 14, 15, & 16, 2012 as written. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 21296:** **Rep. Crane** presented **RS 21296**, proposed legislation to give recognition to firefighting and EMS Medal of Valor recipients during the annual Idaho Fallen Firefighter Memorial Ceremony. Rep. Crane explained the receiving award process is completed by a conference call chaired by the Attorney General. The nominees for the Medal of Valor have provided life saving rescue efforts and service that went above and beyond the call of duty. Currently, the Governor and Lieutenant Governor present the awards during the National Law Enforcement Recognition Week, which is designed around law enforcement and does not give due recognition to firefighters and EMS personnel. **RS 21296** will provide that recognition. Rep. Crane stated there is no fiscal impact.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Batt** made a motion to introduce **RS 21296**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**  
**Chairman Loertscher** turned the gavel over to **Vice-Chairman Crane**.

**RS 21277:** **Jared Bauer**, Executive Director, Idaho Business Council, presented **RS 21277**, proposed legislation to create the Idaho Business Council. Mr. Bauer explained this proposed legislation will create a forum to discuss business issues, utilize colleges and universities to research those issues, and then turn the findings over to the Governor. Each legislator will serve as a voting member on the proposed council and select two business or community leaders from their respective districts. Mr. Bauer stated that the Idaho Business Council will not require any state funds and no travel is required. The council will operate via a web-system created by the Idaho Business Council.

In response to questions, **Jared Bauer** stated the money for the proposed Idaho Business Council will come from grants, donations, and no money will be required by the legislators. Mr. Bauer stated the purpose of **RS 21277** is to have a firm commitment from the Legislature to get a statewide approach and to be a tool for legislators to use in making those business decisions that confront them. The proposed council would consist of upwards of 300+ members, but members wouldn't need to be present for a meeting. They would log-in to a web-system during a 2-3 week period and complete surveys and vote on issues. Mr. Bauer noted the Idaho Department of Commerce would work with the proposed Idaho Business Council during the research stage and provide information as well. The research findings would be available to the public.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Batt** made a motion to return **RS 21277** to the sponsor. Rep. Batt stated that the size of the proposed council, some 300+ members, is not workable. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 21055C1:** **Rep. Nielsen** presented **RS 21055C1**, proposed legislation to amend the U.S. Constitution to provide that an increase in the federal debt requires approval from a majority of the Legislatures of the separate states. Rep. Nielsen stated that with the runaway national debt, we need to go back to the states, and get the people more involved to make government by the people and for the people.

In response to questions, **Rep. Nielsen** stated that 17 states have drafted this same legislation so there will not be any confusion at the national level about what is being asked. This proposed amendment will cause all lobbyists and specific interest groups to lobby each state separately.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McGeachin** made a motion to introduce **RS 21055C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. King and Smith(30)** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**RS 21302C1:** **Rep. Hart** presented **RS 21302C1**, proposed legislation to provide for the voluntary use of gold and silver coin as legal tender in the State of Idaho. Rep. Hart stated that the Federal Reserve stopped reporting how much money they have produced, which is estimated at 29 trillion dollars. This proposed legislation will open the door to use gold and silver coins as legal tender. Federal statutes already provide for this. Rep. Hart noted that equal purchasing power between gold and silver coins and Federal Reserve notes will be maintained.

In response to questions, **Rep. Hart** stated that if two people, for example, have an agreement or have entered into a voluntary contract to use gold and silver coins, it will be legal tender. Some businesses or stores might want to conduct business using the coins, but they are not required to. This proposed legislation allows for the use of minted coins at their face value and allows parties to negotiate how they will value the coins. Rep. Hart noted that most would use the face value. Silver and gold have maintained their value, but the dollar is worth less. Rep. Hart explained that parties to a contract or agreement will negotiate payment and value any gold or silver coin based on the market. It is fluid and easy to determine. **Rep. Sims** invoked Rule 38 because she serves on a board for gold and silver.

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to introduce **RS 21302C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Rep. Batt** made a motion to approve the February 13, 2012 minutes as written. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

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Representative Loertscher  
Chair

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Lissa Cochrane  
Secretary