

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 23, 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) Anderson, Henderson
GUESTS: Shelley Shannon, Idaho Health Facilities Authorities (IHFA); Mike Stoddard, IHFA; Seth Grigg, Idaho Association of Counties; Joie McGarvin, American's Health Insurance Plans; Will Hart, Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association (ICUA); Tony Smith, Benton Ellis; Jan Sylvester, Citizen; Jesse Taylor, Westerberg & Associates; Brad Shafer, Rocky Mountain Power; Ryan Armbruster, Driggs Urban Renewal Agency; Ken Harward, Association of Idaho Cities; Wayne Hammon, Administrator, Idaho Division of Financial Management.

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

RS 21349: **Rep. Ellsworth** presented **RS 21349**, proposed legislation to allow individuals and groups to lower their health insurance costs by making available competitive health plans from out-of-state insurance companies. Rep. Ellsworth noted that current Idaho Code allows the Director of Insurance to contract with outside insurers, but the director has not followed this. **RS 21349** will allow out-of-state insurers certified in another state to sell health or disability insurance to Idaho residents. Rep. Ellsworth explained that insurers will be required to be certified in another state, provide Idaho's mandatory coverages, remit Idaho's premium tax, and contribute to the catastrophic health care fund. The insurers must agree that disputes will be governed by Idaho laws or conduct alternative dispute resolution with an agent located in Idaho to act on their behalf.

In response to questions, **Rep. Ellsworth** explained that insurers will operate under another state's examination procedures, but the Director of Insurance will have access to that information. Rep. Ellsworth explained that currently the insurer has to be domiciled here. This has allowed two companies to control the market. **RS 21349** will increase competition and options and provide competitive pricing for Idaho residents by allowing out-of-state insurers.

MOTION: **Rep. McGeachin** made a motion to introduce **RS 21349**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21251: **Rep. Lacey** presented **RS 21251**, proposed legislation to require motor vehicles to provide a three-foot distance on the left when passing bicyclists. **RS 21251** will also provide safety for non-motorized vehicles to include pedestrians, joggers, wheelchairs, and persons riding horses. **RS 21251** will require non-motorized vehicles to stay as far to the right as possible, travel or ride in a single file line, and when three or more vehicles are behind them, turn off of the roadway or step off to the side. Rep. Lacey stated that while 12% of traffic is bicyclists, they account for 14% of the deaths.

In response to questions, **Rep. Lacey** stated that three feet is just a number, no tape measure will be used. The main point is to provide a safe distance between vehicles and the bicyclist. Rep. Lacey clarified that bicyclists have to follow the

rules of the road and they need to move off of the road to allow fire trucks and EMS to pass. They are already required to ride single file. Rep. Lacey stated that **RS 21251** isn't just an educational bill, it will also provide for penalties and infractions. Rep. Lacey stated that bicyclist clubs and groups will provide information about this legislation to their members.

MOTION: Rep. Higgins made a motion to introduce **RS 21251**.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Rep. King requested a roll call vote on **RS 21251**. **Motion passed by a vote of 9 AYE, 8 NAY, 2 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Black, Andrus, Simpson, Guthrie, McGeachin, Smith(30), King, Higgins, Buckner-Webb. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Loertscher, Crane, Stevenson, Bilbao, Luker, Palmer, Sims, Batt. Reps. Anderson and Henderson were absent/excused.**

H 515: Rep. Nonini presented **H 515**, proposed legislation to update technological standards for information distribution for state agency end-of-year performance reports and strategic plans. Rep. Nonini stated there are two reasons for **H 515**. The first is the number of reports that are generated, and the second reason is that recycling is a good thing to do. Rep. Nonini turned over the presentation to **Ty Palmer**, citizen. Mr. Palmer explained that agencies covered under Title 67 will be required to submit their strategic plans and reports in electronic format. Ten (10) copies will be printed for the constitutional officers and distributed as the agency sees fit. The public will be able to access the plans and reports on the agency's web-site. Mr. Palmer stated this will provide a savings to the taxpayer.

In response to questions, **Mr. Palmer** explained that **H 515** applies to the production of strategic plans and reports and will apply only to those already covered under Title 67. **H 515** will not add additional state agencies. Mr. Palmer stated he does not feel it is the State's position to cater to personal preferences regarding obtaining a hard copy versus printing one out from your computer. The taxpayer wants to reduce costs.

MOTION: **Vice-Chairman Crane** made a motion to send **H 515** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Wayne Hammon, Administrator, Idaho Division of Financial Management, clarified that they currently require all agencies to submit strategic plans and reports electronically. The reports are then reformatted and provided on the web. While this is current policy, it is not in code.

In response to additional questions, **Ty Palmer** explained that **H 515** allows for agencies to print ten (10) copies. If an agency makes more copies than that, Mr. Palmer stated it is his opinion they are violating the law. Mr. Palmer advised that the agency will print ten (10) copies and how each agency enforces this requirement will be up to them.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Luker made a motion to send **H 515** to General Orders with amendments as follows: Page 2, delete Lines 1-3, and on Page 3, Line 35, beginning with the words "Not more" delete Line 35-38. Rep. Stevenson seconded the motion. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Nonini** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 547: Rep. Hartgen stated **H 547** has some technical issues that need to be addressed and requested additional time from the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Andrus made a motion to **HOLD H 547** to a time certain at the call of the Chair. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee; the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Lissa Cochran
Secretary