

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 24, 2012

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW05

MEMBERS: Chairman Barrett, Vice Chairman Marriott, Representative(s) Collins, Bayer, Chadderdon, Barbieri, Luker, Perry, Sims, Higgins, Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None.

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

Chairman Barrett called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

MOTION: **Representative Marriott** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Representative Perry** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 22, 2012. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 21340: **Representative Sims** presented **RS 21340**, which amends Section 50-2006, Idaho Code, to revise provisions relating to urban renewal agency board of commissioners, to establish provisions relating to the election of a board of commissioners, to establish provisions relating to limiting board commissioners from holding certain elective offices, to establish provisions relating to staggered terms to establish provisions relating to an election, to establish provisions relating to an interim director, and to establish provisions relating to terms of office and expiration of terms for commissioners.

Representative Sims reminded the committee that similar urban renewal legislation had been before the committee earlier in the session but had been returned to the sponsor for wording clarification. **RS 21340** is the same proposed legislation with clarified language. Representative Sims reviewed the changes and expressed hope that the improved language will result in introduction of **RS 21340**.

MOTION: **Representative Barbieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 21340**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Representative Higgins** requested that she be recorded as voting **NAY**.

H 560: **Representative Schaefer** presented **H 560**, which repeals Chapter 20, Title 50, the authority to create urban renewal districts. It amends one section in Chapter 29, Title 50, and repeals one section in Chapter 29, Title 50, that refers specifically to urban renewal agencies. **H 560** also provides that the appropriate governing body other than an urban renewal agency shall assume the fiduciary responsibility of the urban renewal agency, which governing body shall ensure that any obligations or liabilities incurred by the urban renewal agency are appropriately retired in a manner consistent with the terms in which such obligations and liabilities were incurred.

A question-and-answer period ensued as to impact on existing urban renewal entities and developments, establishment of an appropriate urban renewal law, and voter involvement.

Testimony was heard from: **William Ditz**, Mountain West Group; **Craig Driver**, Gardner Company; **Brian Blad**, Mayor of Pocatello; **David Swindell**, Chief Financial Office, City of Pocatello; **Lon Crowell**, Planning and Zoning Manager, City of Pocatello; and **Steven England**, Mayor of Chubbuck, who testified in **opposition to H 560**. Those who spoke in **opposition to H 560** generally felt there would be a significant negative impact on development in their communities. **Maurice Clements**, Tax Accountability Committee, spoke in favor of **H 560**, arguing that urban renewal districts impose a heavy debt load on the State and citing the example of California, which had repealed a similar law due to debt load.

A lengthy discussion ensued on the pros and cons of **H 560** relative to tax burden, levy rates, and business and infrastructure development.

Chairman Barrett called for further testimony and discussion on **H 560** to resume the following week because of prior commitments of certain committee members, who had to leave the meeting.

**AMENDED
MOTION:**

Representative Bayer requested that the minutes of February 22, 2012, which had been approved earlier in the meeting, be corrected to reflect, on page 2, that **Representative Eric Anderson** testified **in opposition to H 561**, not **in favor of H 561**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Representative Barrett
Chair

Jeanne Clayton
Secretary