

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, March 16, 2012

**TIME:** 8:30 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative Henderson

**GUESTS:** Jesse Taylor, Self; Matt Westerberg, Self; Teresa Baker, Ada County; Tim Hurst, Office of the Secretary of State; Ron Crane, State Treasurer; Laura Steffler, Office of the State Treasurer; Roy Eiguren, Sullivan, Reberger, Eiguren; Dr. Gloria Totoricaguena, Transnational Initiatives Consulting.

**Chairman Loertscher** called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**RS 21542:** **Roy Eiguren** presented **RS 21542**, a proposed Joint Memorial to recognize Idaho's efforts to bring peace to the Basque homeland. Mr. Eiguren noted Idaho has the largest North American Basque population. Idaho has repeatedly memorialized efforts to establish a negotiation process to bring peace to the region since 1972, when the region was under the rule of the last dictatorship.

**Dr. Gloria Totoricaguena** stated that **RS 21542** is a request for all of the players to lay down their weapons and participate in the peace process. **RS 21542** will bring recognition to four (4) decades of violence and Idaho's importance in promoting peace in the Basque region. Dr. Totoricaguena noted that Idaho should get involved because we just signed an economic agreement with the Basque country. The State of Idaho should ensure that we are working with a democratic society.

In response to questions, **Roy Eiguren** stated that the use of the word "recognize" in the proposed memorial for victims of terrorism is the proper wording for diplomatic matters. **Senator Risch** vetted this proposed memorial with the State Department.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Smith(30)** made a motion to introduce **RS 21542** and send it directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Bilbao** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 21456:** **Ron Crane**, State Treasurer, presented **RS 21456**, proposed legislation to correct language to allow the unclaimed property program to continue receiving taxpayer identifying numbers and prior addresses. Mr. Crane explained that when the unclaimed property program was transferred from the State Tax Commission to the State Treasurer in 2010, language was inadvertently left out allowing the State Tax Commission to share taxpayer identifying numbers with the State Treasurer.

In response to questions, **Mr. Crane** explained that 36 states have the unclaimed property program under the State Treasurer. He was approached by the State Tax Commission to take over the program because it was not a good fit for their agency. Mr. Crane noted that taxpayer identifying numbers are very helpful in identifying unclaimed property. The State Tax Commission would like information on people who have unclaimed property that could be taxed.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Higgins** made a motion to introduce **RS 21456**.

- SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Stevenson** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 21456** and send it directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Stevenson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- RS 21540:** **Chairman Loertscher** stated that **RS 21540** will be rescheduled.
- RS 21507:** **Rep. Sims** presented **RS 21507**, proposed legislation to provide corrections because of a flawed election in Kootenai County. **RS 21507** addresses residency requirements with language drafted by the Office of the Secretary of State and includes protection for the military under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. app. 595. Language warning of the penalties for perjury will be printed on an absent elector's ballot form as a means of educating the elector. An "overseas voter" covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) will vote in federal elections only. Rep. Sims verified those ballot forms are available at U.S. Embassies. **RS 21507** will place further emphasis on those running the election to ensure that absentee ballots and their envelopes are consistent. If there is more than one (1) ballot in an envelope, all ballots and the envelope are voided. Rep. Sims stated that **RS 21507** provides for simple changes and corrections to ensure the validity of each vote.
- In response to questions, **Rep. Sims** stated that military members can apply for an absentee ballot from their country clerk and vote on State issues. Rep. Sims further clarified that a person establishes their domicile in another state or foreign country by registering to vote, obtaining a driver's license or declaring permanent residency. There are foreign countries that require you to declare residency.
- In response to questions, **Tim Hurst**, Chief Deputy, Office of the Secretary of State, noted that **RS 21507** contains residency requirements that reference "removes" rather than "moves" to another state because this is the same language used in two (2) other states. The word "removes" and "moves" have the same meaning.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Batt** made a motion to introduce **RS 21507** with the following change: on Page 1, Section 1, change the word "removes" to "moves".
- SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Luker** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 21507**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 571:** **Chairman Loertscher** stated there would not be a hearing on **H 571** today.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee; the meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

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Representative Loertscher  
Chair

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Lissa Cochrane  
Secretary