

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2015
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW40
MEMBERS: Chairman Loertscher, Vice Chairman Batt, Representatives Andrus, Luker, Crane, Palmer, Sims, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, McMillan, Bateman, Cheatham, Nielsen, Smith, Jordan, McCrostie, Wintrow
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Dan Blocksom, Idaho Association of Cities.
Chairman Loertscher called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
MOTION: **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 - 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., January 27, 2015 - 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., January 28, 2015 - 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and January 29, 2015 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
MOTION: **Rep. Sims** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2015 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
RS 23497: **Rep. Bateman** presented **RS 23497**, proposed legislation which increases the civil penalties for violations of the State Open Meeting Law. He stated there have been no adjustments to the penalties since the law was enacted in 1974. He stated the violations would increase from \$50 to \$500 and the maximum penalty would be raised from \$1,000 to \$5,000. The violation of a person who previously admitted to committing a violation or has been previously determined to have committed a violation within 12 months would increase from \$500 to \$5,000.
In response to committee questions, **Rep. Bateman** stated a violation of the Open Meeting Law is a serious violation of the public's trust and the fines should be increased because of inflation.
Rep. Batt invoked Rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest but that she would be voting on the legislation.
MOTION: **Rep. Batt** made a motion to introduce **RS 23497**.
SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Wintrow** made a substitute motion to return **RS 23497** to the sponsor.
UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Rep. Bateman** made a unanimous consent request to return **RS 23497** to the sponsor for changes. There being no objection, the request was granted.
ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Kasey Winder
Secretary