

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 16, 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:** None.
- Chairman Loertscher** called the meeting to order at 8:59 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Sims** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 23492:** **Rep. Erpelding** presented **RS 23492**, proposed Joint Memorial to urge the government of Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Eastern Orthodox Church. He stated Christians in Turkey have faced great persecution which includes the government's interference with the selection of their leader, the closing of their seminary where clergy are trained, confiscation of property, physical violence, and the inability to worship in public. This legislation requests the Turkish government to work on reforming their laws regarding religious rights and freedoms.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Wintrow** made a motion to introduce **RS 23492**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 23579:** **Rep. Shepherd** presented **RS 23579**, proposed Joint Resolution to call upon our State Legislature, through a Joint Resolution, and call upon our U.S. Congressmen to bring clarity to the U.S. Congress as a whole. That the power of the United States Judiciary's purpose is to interpret as close to the original intent as possible and rule in compliance of Executive and Legislative branches to the Constitution and its original intent. To keep their oath of office which is to uphold the law, not to make or change it or face the possibility of impeachment proceedings.
- Chairman Loertscher** passed the gavel to **Vice Chairman Batt**.
- In response to committee questions, **Rep. Shepherd** stated the legislation is to uphold the original intent of the U.S. Constitution.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Crane** made a motion to introduce **RS 23579** as amended, page 2, line 5, change the word "law" to "Constitution" and strike the words on line 5 and 6 ", but rather makes or changes the law,".
- Rep. Nielsen, Rep. Bateman** and **Rep. Barbieri** spoke **in support** of the motion.
- Rep. Wintrow** spoke **in opposition** to the motion and stated a system of checks and balances between the legislative branch and the judicial branch is important.
- Rep. McCrostie** invoked Rule 38 stating a possible conflict of interest but that he would be voting on the motion. He spoke **in opposition** to the motion and stated that by excluding the judiciary branch from interpreting the law would have detrimental effects on his life because the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled his marriage is legal.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Vice Chairman Batt called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 23579** as amended, page 2, line 5, change the word "law" to "Constitution" and strike the words on line 5 and 6 ", but rather makes or changes the law,". **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Smith, McCrostie, Jordan and Wintrow** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Representative Batt
Chair

Kasey Winder
Secretary