

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 03, 2015

**TIME:** 9:30 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:** Representative(s) Palmer

**GUESTS:** Tyler Mallard, Newspaper Association of Idaho.

**Chairman Loertscher** called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**H 155:** **Rep. Bateman** presented **H 155**, a bill that increases the civil penalties for violations of the Open Meeting Law. He stated there have been no adjustments to the penalties since the law was enacted in 1974. He stated the new fines for violating the meeting law is \$250 for the first offense, not to exceed \$1,500, and \$2,500 for other offenses within a 12-month time period. He stated the previous low fines have been a factor in cases not being prosecuted.

**Tyler Mallard**, Newspaper Association of Idaho, spoke **in support** of **H 155** and stated transparency in government is needed and there should be stricter penalties.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wintrow** made a motion to send **H 155** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Rep. McCrostie** spoke **in support** of the motion and stated it is important for elected officials to stay transparent and it is their responsibility to know what is allowed under the Open Meeting Law.

**Rep. Sims** spoke **in support** of the motion.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Loertscher** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 155** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Andrus** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Bateman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

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Representative Loertscher  
Chair

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Kasey Winder  
Secretary