

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 24, 2015

TIME: 8:30 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:** None

GUESTS: Scott Rowley, self; Blake McDonald, self; Wayne Hurst, self; Allison McClintick, self; Barb Sterling, self; Tyler Hurst, self; Rod Beck, self.

Chairman Loertscher called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

SCR 118: **Senator Buckner-Webb** presented **SCR 118**, a bill that recognizes the critical role the YMCA has played in promoting healthy living, youth development, and social responsibility since 1891.

MOTION: **Rep. Wintrow** made a motion to send **SCR 118** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Wintrow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1066: **Rep. Vander Woude** presented **S 1066** a bill that creates a presidential primary using the already-existing election date on the second Tuesday in March. He stated all other candidates for state or federal office are unaffected and will continue to use the May primary election date. He explained the presidential primary is available for any political party that chooses to participate. All political parties can benefit from an earlier opportunity for voters to express their choice of candidate for nomination for President of the United States, rather than using the May primary election date which is late in the presidential nominating process. He stated with a presidential primary the voters have enhanced opportunities to participate in a presidential primary because of absentee and early voting, or at any time throughout election day at their designated polling place.

Senator Winder was recognized to present the bill's contents. He explained the fiscal impact and stated the legislation may require up to approximately \$2 million from the General Fund for the Secretary of State's Office. He said this need for funding is created by the additional participation anticipated on the March election date, and for the state to reimburse counties for providing legal notice of the presidential primary and producing ballots for the presidential primary.

Scott Rowley, self; **Blake McDonald**, self; **Wayne Hurst**, Republican Member; **Tyler Hurst**, self; spoke in support of **S 1066**.

Senator Beck spoke in opposition to **S 1066**.

MOTION: **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to send **S 1066** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Wintrow spoke in opposition to the motion and stated all the primaries should be open, especially since the taxpayers are paying for it. **Rep. McCrostie** spoke in opposition to the motion and stated it is important for everyone to participate in the process and the price tag is too high. **Rep. Luker** spoke in opposition to the motion and stated he is concerned with the high price tag and using public funds to pay for private parties.

Rep. Bateman spoke **in support** of the motion and stated he is concerned with the absentee voting portion.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Loertscher called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1066** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Luker, Smith, Jordan, McCrostie and Wintrow** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Kasey Winder
Secretary