

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 30, 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:** Representative Jordan

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheets will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of session. Following the end of session, the sign-in sheets will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Loertscher** called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Sims** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 19, 20, 2015 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 23928:** **Rep. Wintrow** presented **RS 23928**, a joint memorial that urges the government of Turkey to respect the rights and religious freedoms of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The Ecumenical Patriarch is the leader of the second largest Christian faith worldwide with approximately 300 million followers. The seat of the church has been centered in Constantinople/Istanbul for the past 2,000 years. However, Christians in Turkey have experienced 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.

**MOTION:** **Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to introduce **RS 23928** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wintrow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1146aa:** **Senator McKenzie** presented **S 1146aa**, a bill, known as Alexis' Law, that provides a limited affirmative defense for the possession of or use of cannabidiol (CBD) oil, a type of hemp oil containing only trace amounts of tetrahydrocannabinol, which can reduce the number and duration of seizures in children and adults living with epilepsy. Alexis' Law is named for a 10 year-old girl living in Idaho who suffers from Dravet Syndrome, a form of intractable epilepsy.

In response to committee questions, **Senator McKenzie** stated the legislation was created to assist parents who have children suffering from intractable seizures and who do not want to use many of the medications approved by the FDA because they have very negative effects such as brain damage and liver damage and are not safe for long term use. He stated there is federal legislation pending for a similar law to come into effect. He stated there is no danger for abuse with the oil because it is not addictive and does not give the high effect like marijuana.

**Elisha Figueroa**, Governors Office of Drug Policy, spoke **in opposition to S 1146aa** and stated the oil is illegal according to federal law. She stated the oil needs to go through the FDA process to get the oil approved before it should be used. She stated the lab reports mentioned in the bill can be created by anyone and the bill does not specify what type of lab. She stated **S 1156** offers an alternative without breaking the law. She stated the parents can get into trouble for transporting the oil over state lines.

**ADJOURN:** Due to time constraints, **S 1146aa** will be carried over to the meeting of March 30, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

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Representative Loertscher  
Chair

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Kasey Winder  
Secretary