

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 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(s) Crane, McMillan

GUESTS: Damian Rodriguez, P.O.W.; George Maas, Idaho Roll Call; Gary Schorzman, Idaho Roll Call; Dan Goicoechea, State Controller; Dan Blocksom, Idaho Association of Counties.

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

Chairman Loertscher gave an instructional moment on rules regarding debate. No motions to close or limit debate are allowed.

RS 23935: **RS 23935** was removed from the agenda at the request of the sponsor.

RS 23857C3: **Ryan Jones**, Office of the Governor, presented **RS 23857C3** regarding office appointments. This amends existing law to avoid unnecessary appointments by providing a more efficient way for appointments to be made. Two main things were done in this RS. First, he contacted the fire districts to see if he could have their support. Second, changed the language, and cooperated with counties to simplify the verbiage to make it easier to understand.

MOTION: **Rep. Nielsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 23857C3**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1155: **Rep. Wood** presented **S 1155** regarding flags at half-staff. In 2012, Rep. Wood attended a funeral of a soldier killed in Afghanistan. He was inspired and touched by the amount of support the community gave. After that a group of men designed and decided to build a monument to honor the people who have fallen protecting our country. They requested the flag be flown at half-staff over the monument. The Governor issued this, but someone from out of the state said the Governor's authority was only limited to one day, after consulting the Flag Code they found the right direction. This legislation will give the Governor the authority to order flags be flown at half-staff for a period of one year on monuments honoring fallen service members, and may be renewed annually.

Damian Rodriguez, a Veteran from Vietnam and retired Master Sergeant, spoke **in support** of **S 1155**. He stated Veterans made a pledge to defend the United States of America and he asked they support this bill so the flag can be flown at half-staff to respect and honor the ones who have fought and died to defend this country.

George Maas, Idaho Roll Call, spoke **in support** of **S 1155**. He stated this is something that is very near and dear to him. The monument is a simple reminder of those that gave their lives for our freedom. **Gary Schorzman**, retired from the National Guard, spoke **in support** of **S 1155**. He became the historian after coming back to Rupert. He knows the roots of the community, and this monument represents everyone in the state of Idaho.

MOTION: **Rep. Cheatham** made a motion to send **S 1155** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wood** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 315: **Rep. Malek** presented **H 315**, legislation regarding the Opportunity Network Act. This bill contemplates putting together a legislative oversight committee that is in charge of two working groups. The legislation operates on several premises: 1) Rural districts should be supported in getting as many resources as possible through technology, 2) There should be standards set for the broadband and related services provided to schools, 3) Local control is important to school district satisfaction, 4) Technology is ever-changing, and Idaho should have a responsive process for taking advantage of new opportunities, 5) The legislature needs to have the ability to help all aspects of opportunities for the state and education through direct stake-holder reporting, 6) The process for pursuing education and other E-Rate eligible services and opportunities should be separate from the process for other services and opportunities, 7) The state's new process should be structurally separate from our previous endeavors, 8) The state should leverage E-Rate as soon as responsibly practicable to provide services to students.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Malek** stated technology will change and the laws need to keep up with the changes. He stated there is no sunset clause, the legislation outlines the goals of the legislation. He stated this is a reduction from the staffing budget from the IEN. He stated there are stake-holders in the process that will make sure good decisions are made.

William Goodman, Chief Technology Officer, Department of Education, was recognized to answer questions from the committee. He stated there are districts now that take care of their own technology services. He stated the legislation puts all the districts on the same page regarding broadband and other technology services, which creates a managed network. He stated the school districts are able to apply for their own E-Rate but many schools did not file for them and so the state lost money. He stated the Board would not do anything until 2017, by February of 2016 this would need to be in place. The rush is to get the Board working on it. He stated there will be two Boards, the EON Board and the ION Board. This legislation will make it possible for all districts to have technology support. He stated there was a survey done and 88% of the districts wanted to participate. He stated the larger districts might not need the service because they have more options and resources than the smaller districts. He stated the legislation would cover libraries as well. He stated it is important to negotiate individual contracts for each district with breakdowns of all the charges. He stated the Board can ultimately secure more bids for districts who might not have the opportunity or resources to do so on their own.

Phil Homer, Idaho Association of School Administrators (IASA), was recognized to answer committee questions. He stated the rural districts need help and have trouble getting services, the IASA is **in support** of the legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Luker** made a motion to **HOLD H 315** in committee. He spoke to the motion and stated that the legislation would be setting up a quasi-government agency and so the language in the bill needs to be clear and concise.

Rep. Barbieri spoke **in support** of the motion and stated the legislation is rushed and he is concerned with costs and the issue needs more discussion.

Rep. Sims spoke **in support** of the motion and stated the Department of Education has many resources that are available to rural districts when they need help. She stated this is not the time to set up a new government agency.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Nielsen** made a substitute motion to send **H 315** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. He spoke to the motion and stated the state needs to save as much as possible and missing out on the E-Rate in some districts is not beneficial.

Rep. Wintrow spoke in support of the substitute motion and stated the legislation would benefit rural districts who need more resources to get services.

**VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

A roll call vote was requested on the substitute motion. **Motion failed by a vote of 2 AYE, 13 NAY, 2 Absent/excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Nielsen and Wintrow. Voting in opposition to the motion: Chairman Loertscher, Reps. Batt, Andrus, Luker, Palmer, Sims, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Bateman, Cheatham, Smith, Jordan and McCrostie. Reps. Crane and McMillan were absent/excused.**

**VOTE ON
ORIGINAL
MOTION:**

Chairman Loertscher called for a vote on the original motion to **HOLD H 315** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Nielsen** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

MOTION:

Rep. Sims made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 24, and 25, 2015 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Kasey Winder
Secretary