

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 07, 2018

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Siddoway, Vice Chairman Hagedorn, Senators Hill, Winder, Lodge, Vick, Anthon, Stennett, and Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Siddoway** called the meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

RS 25987 **RELATING TO PUBLIC RECORDS to provide that certain items used for expense reimbursement to a public official are not exempt from disclosure and that certain security identity documents are exempt from disclosure.**

Senator Souza, District 4, presented **RS 25987** and stated it updated Idaho public records law to balance openness with the need for privacy. This legislation would add language to the current law addressing three areas; 1.) designating a custodian within each agency to manage requests for public records; 2.) updating types of compensation information available for public information requests, and 3.) adding identity numbers as exempt from public disclosure. **Senator Souza** asked that **RS 25987** be introduced for printing.

Senator Hill asked how she found a need for this legislation. **Senator Souza** replied the issue arose over a question regarding severance packages, as well as an agency designation request for management assistance.

MOTION: **Senator Hill** moved to send **RS 25987** to print. **Senator Hagedorn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1228 **RELATING TO ELECTIONS to revise the minimum age for a student to be appointed to an election board.**

Angie Barkell, Owyhee County Clerk, President of Idaho Association of County Recorders and Clerks presented **S 1228** and stated the bill would lower the minimum wage of poll workers to 16. This would allow students to work more than one election in a year and possibly more than one in a calendar year. She asked that **S 1228** be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

Senator Stennett inquired as to how the training process would work. **Ms. Barkell** replied each county has their own protocol for training, but extensive training is provided.

Senator Vick asked whether schools have allowed students to leave school in order to participate. **Ms. Barkell** replied they have encountered some resistance in rural areas. **Senator Vick** questioned the history of ages of poll workers. **Ms. Barkell** stated she was not aware of the history.

Senator Buckner-Webb commented on the importance of getting youth involved in this process.

Senator Lodge asked if schools have provided input on the age of 16. **Ms. Barkell**

replied they have not received much input from schools, but input has been received from constituents who have requested the age be changed.

Senator Lodge commented on the possibility that the Legislature could help; she indicated it is a good opportunity for the youth.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Hagedorn** moved to send **S 1228** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lodge** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1229 **RELATING TO ELECTIONS to provide for the submission and approval of an early voting plan.**

Angie Barkell, Owyhee County Clerk, President of Idaho Association of County Recorders and Clerks presented **S 1229** and stated the bill would allow counties to submit an early voting plan once per year. This would simplify the process for both the counties and the Secretary of State's Office where currently, counties submit the same plan up to five times a year. She asked that **S 1229** be sent to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

Senator Stennett asked, if each county had a different process in regards to early voting, would that cause any conflicts. **Ms. Barkell** replied they do not foresee any issues. Her county does not do early voting; regardless, the time limit does not seem to cause obstructions for any county.

Chairman Siddoway questioned whether one plan would be sufficient to cover the entire year. He inquired if the plans would need to be modified if there were more than one type of election in any given year. **Ms. Barkell** answered the election process is the same for all elections. Modifications would only need to be made if there were large facility changes or changes in polling locations.

Vice Chairman Hagedorn inquired about the number of voters in Owyhee County. **Ms. Barkell** replied they had over 5,000 in the most recent presidential election. They currently have a population of approximately 11,600.

Senator Hill inquired as to the writer of the bill; he wondered if he or she were present. He noted new language in lines 12-13; "or at least thirty (30) days prior to implementing an early voting plan." He asked why the "at least" was added; does it change the meaning of the bill in any way? **Ms. Barkell** replied she was not sure why it was added. However, she agreed with a minimum of 30 days prior to the election.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Hagedorn** moved to send **S 1229** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion.

TESTIMONY: **Phil McGrane**, Chief Deputy Clerk, Ada County Clerk's Office, presented his viewpoint as the largest user of early voting in the State of Idaho. He stated the intent of this legislation would be to eliminate the repetition of submitting unchanged plans. A new plan would be submitted if changes were based on the type of election or if there was a change in voting location.

The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Siddoway** adjourned the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Senator Siddoway, Chair

Twyla Melton, Secretary

Diane James, Assistant Secretary