

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 26, 2019

**TIME:** 1:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Harris, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representatives Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Zito, Scott, Andrus, Hartgen, Young, Smith, Gannon, Green(18)

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

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

**Chairman Harris** reconvened the meeting at 1:01 PM.

**S 1159aa:** **Garrett Castle, Robert Bratley, Zoe Kenney, Hari Heath**, representing themselves; **Jonathan Oppenheimer**, Government Relations Director, Idaho Conservation League; and **Rod Beck**, representing himself, testified **in opposition** to **S 1159aa**. They were of the opinion the legislation would encourage outside interests and unfair entities to influence Idaho's ballot initiative process. The legal fees that may incur will be large and very expensive.

**Rep. Scott** stated she had spent time deliberating how she was going to vote. However, she was highly offended after certain comments were made from a previous testifier, and will not be threatened into a vote.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to send **S 1159aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Speaking **in opposition** to the motion, **Rep. Smith** explained the legislation would give veto power to a certain amount of districts. She was also concerned about the decrease of the amount of time the public would have to collect signatures, the litigation that may ensue because of the legislation, and that **S 1159aa** is in violation of the public's first amendment rights.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Gannon** made a substitute motion to **HOLD S 1159aa** in committee. Speaking to the motion, Rep. Gannon cited concerns about **S 1159aa** stifling voter participation.

**Rep. Green(18)** spoke **in support** of the substitute motion, explaining her concerns are, four of the smallest districts will have veto power and how restrictive combining all three new requirements will be to the process. She appreciated the addition of a fiscal note, citing the importance of transparency.

**Rep. Crane** spoke **in support** of the original motion, explaining currently five counties already have veto power and rural communities are being left out. The legislation will provide predictability, fiscal responsibility, and clarity.

**AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Hartgen** made an amended substitute motion to send **S 1159aa** to General Orders. She explained the importance of having a fiscal impact included in the legislation and the representation of rural communities in the process. However, there are aspects of the bill, such as the reduced timelines for signatures and the percentage increase in signatures, that do not need to be included.

**Rep. Monks spoke in opposition** to the amended substitute motion and substitute motion, explaining half of the states do not allow a voter initiative process at all and the process is not meant to be easy. He stated the legislation does not prohibit the initiative process and he will be voting for the original motion.

**VOTE ON  
AMENDED  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Amended substitute motion failed by a vote of 4 AYE, 11 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Hartgen, Smith, Gannon, and Green(18). Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Harris, Armstrong, Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Zito, Scott, Andrus, and Young.**

**VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE, 10 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Scott, Hartgen, Smith, Gannon, and Green(18). Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Harris, Armstrong, Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Zito, Andrus, and Young.**

**VOTE ON  
ORIGINAL  
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Original motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE, 5 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Harris, Armstrong, Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Zito, Andrus, and Young. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Scott, Hartgen, Smith, Gannon, and Green(18). Reps. Monks and Dixon** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:49 PM.

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Representative Harris  
Chair

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Julia Grief  
Secretary