

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 20, 2020
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW40
MEMBERS: Chairman Harris, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representatives Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Zito, Scott, Andrus, Hartgen, Young, Smith, Gannon, Green
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Elinor Chehey, Roger Batt, Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission

Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

MOTION: **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2020 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 321: **Rep. Syme** explained that **H 321** minimizes paperwork necessary to receive alcohol licensing and adds a word to the bill to clarify intent.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Syme** said there does not need to be a live event happening for alcohol to be served, but there is usually an event occurring anyway.

MOTION: **Rep. Green** made a motion to send **H 321** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Discussion on the motion was held. Committee members expressed concern about changing intent from the original law and said they believed this was a positive change. **Rep. Syme** said the Idaho State Police suggested the change and that the word addition does not give more authority to any party.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Syme** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 27219 **Mr. Batt** said if wineries overproduce, they are forced to ship the product out of state because no winery can store wine from another winery. Mr. Batt explained that **RS 27219** would allow the establishment of bonded third-party wine warehouses that handle and store wine until a winery has room again.

MOTION: **Rep. Smith** made a motion to introduce **RS 27219**.

In response to committee questions, **Mr. Batt** said **RS 27219** does not restrict wineries from building storage, but a warehouse is more cost effective. Mr. Batt explained at least three wineries are spending thousands of dollars on storing wine in out-of-state warehouses. Mr. Batt did not speculate on building costs. **Rep. Green** spoke **in support** of this legislation because it encourages business growth for the state.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 27262: **Rep. Monks** explained the purpose of the proposed legislation is to remove an outdated reference and to update the law to reflect current practices of keeping personal records of substitute representatives with the Secretary of State and not in House journals.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Monks** said the proposed change does not reflect any shift in state or federal control, but only changes the wording.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane** made a motion to introduce **RS 27262. Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 322: **Rep. Ricks** said **H 322** corrects **S 1066**. **Rep. Ricks** said the language used in **S 1066** to address party affiliation does not specifically mention the presidential primary. The Secretary of State and Attorney General decided that presidential primaries differed from primaries and the language in **S 1066** allows the upcoming presidential primary to be considered an open primary, instead of a closed primary. **H 322** corrects this and includes the presidential primary in the timeline for declaring party affiliation.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Ricks** said the bill does have an emergency clause for voters who move to Idaho after the deadline to declare party affiliation to change their affiliation at any time until the presidential primary is held on March 10th. **Rep. Ricks** said there is a window for Idaho residents to change their affiliation. **Rep. Ricks** said the Republican Party put out a press release about the ability for voters to change their party affiliation.

In response to committee questions about communications from the Secretary of State's office, **Rep. Ricks** deferred to **Secretary of State Lawrence Denney**.

Secretary Denney said his office did not send a letter to the public, but did communicate with county clerks. **Secretary Denney** said that because this is a policy issue, the Secretary of State's office cannot know when it will pass the House and Senate. However, when it does, there will be time to make the public aware before **Governor Little** signs it into effect.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane** made a motion to send **H 322** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Rep. Crane** noted that this legislation does not prevent voters from switching parties.

Committee members commented with concern that the bill appeared to be a voter suppression bill advocated for by political parties and this bill discourages participation in the party system. Committee members also noted that it is the responsibility of the Secretary of State to communicate with the public in a timely manner and that people should not look to parties for what is appropriate.

Elinor Chehey of Ada County testified **in opposition** to **H 322**, particularly questioning the effect of the emergency clause on out-of-state voters and part-time residents.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Ricks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 AM

Representative Harris
Chair

Devon Powers
Secretary