

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2020

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lodge, Vice Chairman Harris, Senators Hill, Winder, Vick, Souza, Stennett, and Buckner-Webb.

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Anthon

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: **Chairwoman Lodge** called the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:05a.m.

RS 27423 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** designating November 7, 2020 and each succeeding year as Victims of Communism Memorial Day.

Senator Vick presented **RS 27423**, a concurrent resolution to establish the Victims of Communism Memorial Day. He said that people who live under communist regimes go to great lengths, even risking death, to be free. The threat of communism is always present, even in the United States. He continued that it is important to expose young people to the horrors that happen in many communist countries.

Senator Vick said new statistics have shown a resurgence in an interest in communism and socialism in the United States and that a 2018 YouGov poll found that more than half of millennials say they would prefer to live in a socialist or communist country. He spoke of Hong Kong, and how it is a perfect example of people fighting for their freedom against the Communist regime of China.

Senator Vick read the resolution to the Committee and explained that the date of November 7, 2017, was the centennial anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, the first communist regime in the world. President Trump made November 7th a national day for the victims of communism and that is why this date was chosen for the Victims of Communism Memorial Day. He finished by saying that designating this memorial day is not a partisan issue. It is a day to honor the people who have suffered and died under communism. (Attachment 1)

DISCUSSION: The Committee discussed the resolution and agreed this day should be memorialized, with the hope of inspiring further discussions and actions. They agreed that it was important to remember the injustices, not only in communist countries, but the rest of the world as well.

MOTION: **Senator Souza** moved to send **RS 27423** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 27422 **Relating To Daylight Saving Time** to add a new chapter.

Senator Vick next presented **RS 27422** and said it amends Title 67 of Idaho Code, and adds a new chapter. Chapter 96 proposes to have daylight savings time year round in those areas of Idaho and all its political subdivisions that are in the Pacific time zone. He said this bill is contingent on the State of Washington making daylight savings time the permanent time of that state.

MOTION: **Senator Winder** moved to send **RS 27422** to print. **Senator Hill** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 27479 **RELATING TO ELECTIONS** to revise requirements for write-in candidates.

Kelli Brassfield, representing the Idaho Association of Counties, presented **RS 27479**, relating to the write-in deadline for elections. She said all partisan offices have a write-in deadline of 28 days prior to an election and all non-partisan offices have a deadline of the seventh Friday or 45 days prior to the election. Clerks are required to start mailing their absentee ballots 45 days prior to an election. This proposed legislation seeks to move the write-in deadline back to the eighth Friday or 52 days prior to an election, giving clerks additional time to prepare their ballots with the Secretary of State's office, and get them mailed out in on time.

Ms. Brassfield said they have added a provision for write-in candidates filing with the Secretary of State's office requiring them to pay the filing fee at the time of filing. The last change seeks to authorize the Secretary of State's office to design the ballot without a write-in line if no one has filed as a write-in candidate. This does not create any additional duties or burdens to their office.

Senator Hill questioned the wording that referenced the fee payment deadlines for write-in candidates, and asked if the two deadline options were the same date. **Ms. Brassfield** stated one option was for the petition filing and the other was for the write-in filing. For clarification and to alleviate any confusion, she stated she would have more information at the hearing.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Harris** moved to send **RS 27479** to print. **Senator Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 27480 **RELATING TO ELECTIONS** to revise provisions regarding the security of ballots after being counted.

Ms. Brassfield next presented **RS 27480** that relates to city elections and the security of ballots during the period which individuals can request a re-count. With this legislation, all ballots will remain sealed and secure until the 20-day period has passed, or a re-count has been requested and completed. She said this ensures there is no ballot tampering. **Ms. Brassfield** met with the Secretary of State's office and this legislation does not create any additional duties or burdens.

MOTION: **Senator Stennett** moved to send **RS 27480** to print. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 27481 **RELATING TO CITY ELECTIONS** to establish provisions regarding certain uncontested city elections.

Ms. Brassfield next presented **RS 27481** which addresses uncontested city elections. She stated that cities currently are required to hold elections even when a seat is uncontested. She said this legislation will remove the requirement that the city would not have to hold an election if there is only one candidate for each seat, essentially making it an uncontested election.

Ms. Brassfield responded to Senator Stennett's questions and said this legislation only applies if all the candidates on the ballot were uncontested. If one candidate position was contested, the uncontested candidates would have to run as well, and an election would need be held.

MOTION: **Senator Stennett** moved to send **RS 27481** to print. **Senator Vick** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1243 **RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET** to allow equitable distribution of government overhead expenses.

David Fulkerson, Deputy Administrator and State Financial Officer for the Idaho State Division of Financial Management, presented **S 1243**, the statute regarding the equitable distribution of government overhead expenses. **Mr. Fulkerson** said this legislation eliminates Idaho Code § 67-3524. All its functions will now be covered under Idaho Code § 67-3531.

MOTION: **Senator Vick** moved to send **S 1243** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1244 **RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET** to change the criteria for certain coded items to meet the State Controller's fiscal policy.

Mr. Fulkerson next presented **S 1244**, relating to Idaho Code § 67-3508, the statute that governs expenditure object codes. He said this legislation will strike the language "2-year service requirement" and change it to meet the State Controller's fiscal policy for inventoriable capital assets. This allows smaller items to become operating expenses and not recorded as capital outlay.

Responding to Senator Stennett's question regarding threshold limits, **Mr. Fulkerson** stated that the State Controller's policy dictates items over \$2,000 must be inventoried, as well as any items that need to be tracked for security reasons.

MOTION: **Senator Hill** moved to send **S 1244** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1245 **RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS** to clarify provisions regarding certain funds.

Mr. Fulkerson next presented **S 1245** relating to Idaho Code § 59-1014, the statute that governs how the state deposits money when received by state agencies. He said that some agencies have struggled to meet the 24-hour deadline for depositing cash. With this legislation, the Board of Examiners can now make exceptions to this deadline for specific situations.

MOTION: **Senator Hill** moved to send **S 1245** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

INTRODUCTION: **Chairwoman Lodge** introduced former Committee member, Senator Siddoway (12 years).

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Senator Lodge
Chair

Twyla Melton
Secretary

Denise B. McNeil
Assistant to the Assistant Majority
Leader