

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 06, 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:** Lynn Troxel, Parma Highway District; Dick Smith, Nampa Highway 1; Eliza Walton, CVI; Liz Halter, Veritas Advisors; Jerod Odoms, WCRB; Lori Burelle, Southwest Idaho Chapter of the National Organization for Women; David Levanger, Highway District 1; Rick Visser, Ada County Commission; Diane Schwan, Donald Williamson

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

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gannon** made a motion to approve minutes from the January 29, 2020 committee meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to approve minutes from the February 3, 2020 committee meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 27314:** **Rep. Bedke**, Speaker of the House of Representatives, said **RS 27314** is a joint resolution to amend the Idaho Constitution to fix the number of legislative districts at 35.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 27314**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 27561:** **Rep. Moon** said **RS 27561** allows government announcements and notices to be posted on the appropriate agency websites. Circulation is down among local newspapers and advertising fees have risen. Some communities do not have the funds to pay for notices in newspapers.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 27561**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 378:** **Rep. Moon** said **H 378** would limit the names submitted to the governor to fill an open seat in the legislature to one name. Current practice includes the selection of three names by central committees and the selection of one by the governor. **Rep. Moon** said historically the first choice is not always chosen, even though the people have shared their opinions.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Moon** said she was not aware of any legal background check requirement for nominees and nominees should not be held to a standard that other legislators are not. **H 378** would apply to both parties. **Rep. Moon** said she believed the first choice of the central committees is the candidate they believe is the strongest. If one name was sent to the governor and an issue came up, the process would start again. Historically, the governor has always chosen one of the three options, but many strong candidates were passed over. **Rep. Moon** also clarified that **H 378** applies only to vacancies in the state legislature.

Committee members expressed concerns over the lack of checks and balances in **H 378**.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **H 378** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

During discussion on the motion, committee members questioned the role of lobbying in the process of submitting and choosing names.

**Lori Burelle**, Southwest Idaho Chapter of the National Organization for Women, testified **in opposition** to **H 378**. Ms. Burelle said most states have a check and balance process. She represents a nonpartisan organization that wants to ensure people who are appointed are willing to listen instead of being chosen by the most partisan group of people.

**Rep. Moon** closed testimony and said most people are appointed at the end of the first year or in the second year and if those appointees are not doing well, the voters can decide in the next election.

During further discussion on the motion, committee members said **H 378** would ensure bottom-up governance with little interference. Committee members also said they hoped local committees did their due diligence on all three candidates and only put forward good candidates. Members also said they did not think the executive should weigh in on the choice of local committees and the legislative branch should take care of the legislative branch.

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

**RS 27475:** **Rep. Scott** said **RS 27475** would prohibit the discrimination of or preferential treatment of job applicants based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin unless reasonably necessary.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Scott** gave an example of a battered women's shelter of a company or organization that would prefer to hire women over men.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 27475**.

During discussion on the motion, committee members acknowledged the complexity of the issue and questioned the impact on other statutes.

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

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 AM.

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Representative Harris  
Chair

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Devon Powers  
Secretary