

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 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:** Young

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 called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

S 1345: **Rep. Troy** presented **S 1345**. She provided a brief history of hemp production and noted the federal government regulations over the crop today. **S 1345** refers to **Governor Little's** executive order regarding interstate transportation of hemp and calls for a state plan to be implemented regarding the farming of hemp. Rep. Troy said hemp is a highly regulated commodity at the federal level. Rep. Troy said **S 1345** allows for samples to be taken and tested and states transporting hemp without the proper permits is a misdemeanor. Rep. Troy yielded time to **Rep. Raymond**. Rep. Raymond spoke in support of **S 1345** and said the Governor Little's executive order expires at Sine Die. He said **S 1345** allows farmers to dip their toe into the industry without shifting the focus of the Department of Agriculture from crops that are profitable. Rep. Troy said **S 1345** calls for a state plan that ensures state control over the hemp industry. Rep. Troy said **S 1345** does not legalize the buying or selling of hemp or hemp that has .3% or more THC. She said **S 1345** would allow the legislature to review rules regularly and provides farmers with an alternative crop.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Troy** said hemp has a .3% THC or lower while marijuana has a higher percentage of THC. She said any hemp that is over the .3% threshold is called hot hemp, ineligible for crop insurance and must be destroyed. Rep. Troy said the farmer destroys the crop and the process would be laid out in rules. The hemp can be tested for THC by the State Department of Agriculture at any time in addition to a specific time before the hemp is harvested. She said the farmers submit the GPS coordinates of the fields to the Department of Agriculture. Rep. Troy said once hemp is identified as hot hemp there are procedures and guidelines to follow and referred to crop residue requirements. She said the regulations and processes laid out in **S 1345** are similar to those of other agricultural commodities and it is inspected, tested, tagged, and labeled before transport. Rep. Troy said transporting marijuana is a felony but transporting hemp with a license is not. Rep. Troy said much of the licensing process and fees will be established by the state plan that will require an application and a background check in addition to other federal and state guidelines. Rep. Troy said smoking hemp would be similar to smoking hay and it would make someone sick before they got high.

Tim Cornie, a farmer from Twin Falls, testified he traveled to Canada to learn the process of growing hemp and all of its uses. He said farmers are used to doing paperwork and this is nothing new. He said hemp helps farmers and adds value to the farming community.

LaVerne Sessions testified she opposed the legalization of marijuana and spoke about her recent experiences. She said she spoke to a former law enforcement officer from Florida, who told her it was difficult to regulate. She also spoke to a hemp farmer from Oregon who said Idaho does not want hemp because it brings drug cartels. He told her hemp cross-pollinates very easily and becomes hot hemp. She said this man also told her CBD oil was extremely difficult to work with and he moved to Idaho to get out of hemp. She said she supports farmers, this industry should be regulated for as long as possible and suggested doing national research and holding off on any legislative action. She said the only people excited about **S 1345** are people who want to legalize marijuana.

Diana Serpa testified the only difference between hemp and marijuana was a difference in THC levels. She said testing has to be done in state labs, which is expensive, and THC levels vary from plant to plant. Ms. Serpa said the regulations in **S 1345** cannot be held up. She said she is a refugee from California and she has seen what happened there and Idaho only has one chance to get it right.

Drew Eggers testified in support of **S 1345**. As a farmer, he believes that hemp could be beneficial for Idaho and help the farming industry.

Due to time constraints, **S 1345** will be carried over to the meeting of March 11, 2020.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Representative Harris
Chair

Devon Powers
Secretary