

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, August 24, 2020

**TIME:** 5:45 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW42

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

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheets will be retained and filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**Chairman Harris** called the meeting to order at 5:50pm.

**H 1:** **Rep. Giddings**, District 7, stated **H 1** amends **Idaho Code, Section 34-1006**, by adding language that would ensure electors be provided the opportunity for in-person voting regardless of a state of emergency, extreme emergency, or disaster emergency.

**Monica McKinley**, representing herself from District 22, stated she is in favor of in-person voting and is **in support** of **H 1**.

**Wendy Blanton**, representing herself from District 11, stated she is concerned about voter fraud and is **in support** of **H 1**.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **H 1** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:** **Chairman Harris** requested a roll call vote. **Motion carried by a vote of 15 AYE and 0 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Harris, Reps. Armstrong, Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Zito, Scott, Andrus, Hartgen, Young, Smith, Gannon, and Green. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **none. Rep. Giddings** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**HR 1:** **Rep. Monks**, District 22, stated **HR 1** supports all efforts to procure sufficient numbers of poll workers for the November 2020 election. This could include using CARES Act funds to advertise, train, and provide financial incentives to poll workers and if necessary, activate the National Guard.

In response to concerns about how much money could be spent as indicated in the Fiscal Note, **Rep. Monks** acknowledged currently poll workers are paid \$150, so the \$2,000,000 figure would most likely be reduced to reflect the current payment.

**Lee Joe Lay**, representing himself from District 16, stated most poll workers are retired and come out to work as their civic duty, not for the money, and that incentives could help to recruit younger poll workers. He stated he is **in support** of **HR 1**.

**Charity Majors**, representing herself from the North End of Boise, spoke **in support** of **HR 1**. She stated she is a poll worker and will help to recruit younger individuals in order to keep the elderly poll workers safe.

**Jill Watson**, representing herself from Nampa, stated she is a poll worker and spoke **in support** of **HR 1**.

- MOTION:** **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to send **HR 1** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.
- ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Chairman Harris** requested a roll call vote. **Motion carried by a vote of 15 AYE and 0 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Harris, Reps. Armstrong, Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Zito, Scott, Andrus, Hartgen, Young, Smith, Gannon, and Green. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **none. Rep. Monks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- HCR 1:** **Chairman Harris** presented **HCR 1**. He stated the goal of this Concurrent Resolution is to end the statewide emergency declaration because there is no longer a need for one, and if passed by both Houses of the Legislature, **HCR 1** would go into effect immediately. **Chairman Harris** pointed out the process to end the emergency declaration is described in **Idaho Code, Section 46-1008**, which states "the legislature by concurrent resolution may terminate a state of disaster emergency at any time. Thereupon, the Governor shall issue an executive order of proclamation ending the state of disaster emergency." He concluded by stating economic harm has occurred due to the virus including a rise in mental health issues and suicides and does not want to see any more lives lost.
- Committee members expressed concerns regarding loss of CARES Act and FEMA funding if the emergency declaration ends when the need is still out there for PPE and other resources. **Chairman Harris** and **Rep. Crane** both replied CARES Act funds will still be available but FEMA funds would end. More concerns were raised regarding why CARES Act funds would still be available for Idaho if there is no longer a declared emergency. **Chairman Harris** explained CARES Act funding is based on a national emergency declaration, not a state declaration.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Crane** made a motion to send **HCR 1** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.
- A committee member questioned if the emergency declaration ends, does that mean all PPE and other mandates end as well? **Chairman Harris** responded **HCR 1** only ends **Governor Little's** emergency declaration and the mandates currently in place, such as wearing masks, have been delegated down to and are controlled by the Health Districts.
- Gail Zarr, Wendy Blanton, Kirk Pendergrass, Dana Clemeaux, Emily Wahl, Michael Phillips, Charity Majors, Lonnie Caldwell, Claudia Frent, Nikki Schumacher, and Casey Baker** all spoke in support of **HCR 1** by expressing their concern for loss of freedoms such as opening businesses, going to work, children not being able to go to school in person, and not being allowed to visit elderly family members or be with sick and dying family members. One person testifying exclaimed the cure is worse than the disease.
- ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Chairman Harris** requested a roll call vote. **Motion carried by a vote of 11 AYE and 4 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Harris, Reps. Armstrong, Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Zito, Scott, Andrus, Young. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Hartgen, Smith, Gannon, and Green. Rep. Harris** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

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Representative Harris  
Chair

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Tracey McDonnell  
Secretary