

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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

**TIME:** 10:30 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Lodge, Vice Chairman Harris, Senators Hill, Winder, Vick, Anthon, Souza, and Stennett:

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Buckner-Webb

**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 10:35 a.m.

**RS28046 RELATING TO ABSENTEE VOTING DURING THE PANDEMIC** to revise provisions of issuance and counting absentee ballots.

**PRESENTATION:** **Phil McGrane**, Ada County Clerk and Chair of Elections Committee for Association of Counties and Clerks, advised that RS28046 related to absentee ballots for the November 3 general election and would expire at the end of the calendar year. RS28046 aligns the deadline to mail ballots for uniformed and overseas voters to federal law to 45 days before election and local ballots to 30 days prior to election and allows county clerks an additional two weeks to open and scan ballots. Senator Stennett asked if the Secretary of State participated in drafting language. Mr. McGrane responded that the Secretary of State was consulted in drafting RS28046. Senator Souza recommended adding language detailing security measures. Mr. McGrane noted that other statutes addressed security. Senator Vick suggested defining security. Chairwoman Lodge recognized the Secretary of State Lawrence Denney in attendance.

**MOTION:** **Senator Vick** moved to send **RS28046** to print. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS28045 RELATING TO IN-PERSON POLLING LOCATIONS DURING THE PANDEMIC** to propose alternative procedures for election day voting and provide vote centers.

**PRESENTATION:** **Phil McGrane**, Ada County Clerk and Chair of Elections Committee for Association of Counties and Clerks advised that RS28045 addressed in-person voting for the November election and allows voters to go to any polling location to vote. RS28045 also allows the public and county clerks the flexibility to adjust. Senator Stennett expressed concern with the ability of people in rural areas to vote. Mr. McGrane responded that federal law requires compliance with ADA laws and that locations are established by district and allows one center per 15,000 voters and within 25 miles.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS28045** to print. **Senator Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Stennett noted that she would vote to print; however, expressed concern with the working parts.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

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Senator Lodge  
Chair

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Gaye Bennett  
Secretary