

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 03, 2021

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairwoman Lodge, Vice Chairman Guthrie, Senators Winder, Anthon, Harris, Heider, Stennett, and Burgoyne

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Lee

**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 meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:06 a.m.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **The Gubernatorial Appointment of Rob Perez to the State Treasurer Investment Advisory Board (Board).**

**Mr. Perez** informed the Committee that he has spent his life in Idaho; of his extensive, 30-year-career in the banking industry; and of his community service experiences. He explained that it is his fundamental belief that there is no greater calling than to be of service, and it would be his honor to be on the Board.

**Chairwoman Lodge** announced the Committee will vote on the Gubernatorial appointment at the next meeting.

**RS 28081** **Relating to Codifier's Corrections to make technical corrections.**

**Kristin Ford**, Division Manager, Legislative Services Office, explained that **RS 28081** was the annual codifier's legislation to correct cross-references and technical issues in Idaho Code.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Stennett** asked if there was any section(s) that needed more attention than others. **Ms. Ford** responded there was not.

**MOTION:** **Senator Anthon** moved to send **RS 28081** to print. **Vice Chairman Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 28240C1** **Relating to Sport Shooting Ranges to clarify legislative intent and remove certain word ambiguities.**

**Senator Agenbroad**, District 13, said the purpose of this legislation is to provide clarity to the legislation passed in 2008 that allowed existing gun ranges to expand their operations on their property without acquiring an additional conditional use permit. He said this legislation is necessary to clarify and provide definitions in this code while maintaining the original intent of the law.

**MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send **RS 28240C1** to print. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 28410** **Relating to Martial Law to clarify and limit the power of a governor during episodes of extreme emergency.**

**Senator Anthon**, District 27, explained the legislation reflected a joint effort between many members of the Legislature to address concerns raised during the

COVID-19 outbreak in Idaho. This legislation limits the duration of extreme emergency declarations, defines extreme emergencies, and extreme peril. **Senator Anthon** further explained that it reaffirms the Legislature's authority, and that the emergency regulations are appropriate. It also prevents the suspension of rights to assemble, exercise freedom of religion, and to bear arms. He stated it provides checks and balances for extreme emergency types of powers.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Guthrie** moved to send **RS 28410** to print. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Burgoyne** asked for clarification related to page 1, line 17, where striking the word "organized" removes the distinction between organized or not organized militia. Also, the word "explosion" is an undefined term on line 27. **Senator Anthon** explained the change regarding "organized" was simply to be in line with the constitutional language. "Explosion" could mean all types of explosions.

**Senator Stennett** asked if there was a definition of the word terrorist appearing on line 31. **Senator Anthon** stated that terrorist is defined in Title 18, Idaho Code.

**VOICE VOTE:** The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **Review of the Last Election regarding aspects of the process and any identified issues.**

**Chad Houck**, Chief Deputy, Secretary of State, and **Phil McGrane**, Ada County Clerk, gave a presentation regarding the extraordinary effort that went into last year's election as a result of COVID 19 and efforts to increase access and security. (see Attachment A)

**Mr. McGrane** explained, since 1980, last year saw the highest voter turnout for the State at 81 percent; Idaho exceeded a million registered voters for the first time. He detailed various statistics of voters, explained that it was important to review how Idaho performed, and discussed the people's level of engagement; all to be able to improve the process in future years as well as the way they estimate costs.

**Mr. Houck** presented an article containing data regarding electoral integrity and explained that Idaho was among the best-run states. He discussed the funding that provided for security, training, and systems. In addition, a team from the Secretary of State's office visited all 44 counties performing security audits to protect Idaho's election systems from active threats. He identified all the groups that worked in conjunction toward the Statewide effort to meet the challenge of balancing access versus security, and to make complex elections as easy as possible to administer.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Burgoyne** asked Mr. Houck if the ability to prevent the submission of multiple ballots and forged signatures enhances the security through multiple strategies. **Mr. Houck** agreed that was an accurate description of both.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

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Senator Lodge, Chair

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Twyla Melton, Secretary

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Erin Miller, Assistant Secretary