

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 08, 2021

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Lee and Stennett

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 8:05 a.m.

RS 28418 **Relating to Elections to Revise Provisions Related to the Issuance of Absentee Ballots.**

Phil McGrane, Ada County Clerk explained that the substance of **RS 28418** remains the same as the legislation passed during the 2020 Extraordinary Session by unanimous consent of both houses. This legislation expired December 31, 2020. There are two key changes in **RS 28418**:

1. The change from 45 days to 30 days to mail out domestic absentee ballots returning the time frame to what it was prior to the 2020 change. Uniformed overseas voters will remain at 45 days to comply with federal law. This also allows for a seven day time period prior to election day to open and scan absentee ballots but the results cannot be tallied during that time.
2. During the Extraordinary Session, the Senate added an amendment requiring cameras during the seven-day window and that requirement remains in this legislation. The ability to observe to maintain transparency and the integrity of the elections remains very important.

Senator Harris asked if the ability to film would be available to all counties. **Mr. McGrane** responded that they would have the ability to film and to stream.

DISCUSSION: **Chairwoman Lodge** requested verification that the date of December 31,2020 was removed as the expiration date. **Mr. McGrane** concurred.

Senator Harris stated his concerns about small counties being overlooked and asked if they were being considered for funding for camera installations. **Mr. McGrane** replied smaller counties would have options for inexpensive camera systems to be installed and for streaming.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 28418** to print. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 28301 **A Senate Joint Memorial to Request a State Funeral Designated by the United States President for the Surviving Medal of Honor Recipients from World War II.**

Senator Christy Zito, District 23, explained **RS 28301** is a Joint Memorial to the United States President, the Senate, the House of Representatives, and to the Congressional Delegation representing the State of Idaho requesting that, upon the death of the last two veterans who were recipients of the World War II Medal of Honor, be given a state funeral to honor them and the memory of all who served in that war.

MOTION: **Senator Anthon** moved to send **RS 28301** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1053 **Relating to Codifier's Corrections to Make Technical Corrections.**

Kristin Ford Division Manager, Legislative Services Office (LSO), explained that **S 1053** is the annual codifier's bill that corrects cross-references and technical issues in Idaho Code.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Anthon** reviewed page 37, line 43, to clarify the inserted word "protection" was the actual title of the Act it describes. **Ms. Ford** affirmed the addition of the word was for that purpose. **Senator Anthon** then proceeded to page 27, lines 11-12 inquiring why the "Department of Law Enforcement" was changed to "Idaho State Police". **Ms. Ford** stated an official name change was introduced in 2001, however, not all Idaho Code has reflected the change.

MOTION: **Senator Anthon** moved to send **S 1053** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Winder** moved to approve the Minutes of January 13, 2021. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Vice Chairman Guthrie moved to approve the Minutes of January 19, 2021. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Chairwoman Lodge informed the Committee that a silent roll call had been taken for this meeting.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:17 a.m.

Senator Lodge
Chair

Twyla Melton
Secretary

Shelley E. Turley
Assistant Secretary