

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 23, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Scott, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Hanks, Skaug, Gannon, Mathias

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Monks

GUESTS: Jason Hancock - Secretary of State's Office

Chairman Crane called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve minutes of February 15, 2021. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Crane** asked unanimous consent to move **H 136** to top of the agenda. There being no objection, the agenda was amended.

H 136: **Rep. Blanksma** presented **H 136** to allow political subdivisions of no more than 140 voters to request the appropriate board of county commissioners allow at-large elections rather than by district, zone or subdistrict. She said it is very difficult in small communities because they don't always have enough citizens who could serve.

In response to a question, **Rep. Blanksma** explained an at-large election would remove the qualification of being a resident of the district, zone or subdistrict when running for a political seat. Some communities do not have enough full-time residents to fill all of the elected or appointed positions.

Seth Grigg from the Association of Idaho Counties testified in support of **H 136**. It will provide needed flexibility for small districts.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to send **H 136** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Blanksma** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 28602: **Rep. McCrostie** presented **RS 28602** to amend the filing date for independent candidates for president and vice president to align with the filing date for independent candidates for federal, state, district and county offices. This proposed legislation would effect both parties, equally. This will bring consistency to the election process.

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a motion to introduce **RS 28602**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 28558: **Rep. Holtzclaw** presented **RS 28558** to regulate all beer products regardless of alcohol content and change the standard of measurement from alcohol by weight to alcohol by volume, to align Idaho law with Federal law. This legislation authorizes, over the course of three years, 5% of tax revenues derived from "strong beer" to be reallocated from the Idaho Grape Growers and Wine Producers Commission to the Idaho Hop Growers Commission. This is a joint agreement between the Idaho Wine Commission and Hops growers.

The proposed legislation would make the Idaho Grape & Wine Commission's budget whole again by increasing the Commission's current percentage of the wine excise tax allocation (only the wine produced and sold in Idaho) to eighty-eight percent (88%) over the course of three years. Almost 50% of all wine excise taxes are derived from strong beer sales. These funds would be allocated to the Idaho Grape Growers & Wine Producers account to make that account whole again.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 28558. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Kelly Staskey
Secretary