

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 24, 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:** Representatives Palmer and Monks  
**GUESTS:** None.

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

**Chairman Crane** introduced a group of students from Deseret Study Abroad Academy in Eastern Idaho who are visiting the capitol this week.

**HJM 1:** **Rep. von Ehlinger** presented **HJM 1**, a memorial to condemn the Chinese government. This memorial seeks to condemn the Communist Chinese government and the Chinese Communist party for its deceit, duplicity, and crimes against humanity during the initial phase of the COVID-19 outbreak, and let it be known to the President and Congress of the United States that it is the position of the Idaho Legislature that Communist China should be sanctioned and otherwise punished for its misdeeds in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak.

This legislation has already been before the committee. Changes in language were made based upon the committee's recommendations.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to send **HJM 1** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. von Ehlinger** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 28287:** **Rep. Troy** presented **RS 28287**, recognizing the centennial of the centennial of the "people's house", Idaho's state capitol building.

In response to questions, **Rep. Troy** said she would like **RS 28287** to be expedited because this observance is part of Idaho Day on March 4, 2021. **Rep. Troy** clarified there will not be a gathering to celebrate this anniversary.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 28287** and recommended it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar with the following amendment: Page 2 Line 10 - place a period after the word *legacy* and strike the remainder of the RS. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Troy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 28649:** **Rep. Troy** presented **RS 28649** clarifying that employees of Idaho public universities shall not offer extra credit to students to vote or not vote, or to influence a vote for or against a candidate or ballot measure. Based upon committee recommendations, clarifications were made on Page 2 Lines 23 - 29 to delineate the two prohibited activities.

In response to questions, **Rep. Troy** clarified that this legislation does not apply to internships, only what takes place in the classroom. Students interning do not get extra credit and they are not considered an employee of the school. It was noted that Line 25 says, "college course credit or extra credit". It was questioned whether that language, "college course credit" should be deleted. There was concern about restricting internships. Rep. Troy expressed that she will get clarification before removing any language. Many agreed that there needs to be a distinct line between election activities and political activities.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Young** made a motion to introduce **RS 28649**.

During discussion, **Rep. Troy** was asked to find out if professors are giving college credit for voting or elections. Committee members requested to hear from professors if there is a bill hearing. They also want to know the reasoning behind giving credit to encourage students to work on campaigns.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 28505:** **Rep. Troy** presented **RS 28505** to strengthen Idaho's election laws by prohibiting foreign contributions, independent expenditures and electioneering in Idaho campaigns. These activities are already illegal under federal law but not under state law. This proposed legislation would give Idaho the ability to prosecute such violations, whether or not the federal government does. Rep. Troy said she asked the Attorney General's office for an opinion in 2017. At that time, it was not clear foreign contributions are illegal in Idaho

In response to questions, **Rep. Troy** clarified if a candidate does not know the donation received is from a foreign entity, they would not be held responsible. The same groups and individuals subject to the Federal Campaign Act are included in Idaho's list as well. It is consistent with federal guideline.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gannon** made a motion to introduce **RS 28505**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.

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Representative Crane  
Chair

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Kelly Staskey  
Secretary