

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021

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

**PLACE:** Room WW55

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

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**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 8:08 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** asked for unanimous consent that **HCR 8** be held until March 15. There were no objections.

**RS 28707** **Relating to Pari-mutuel Betting to provide for funding of the Idaho State Racing Commission.**

**Senator Guthrie** requested that the Committee print **RS 28707**, which addresses distribution of certain funds to the Idaho State Racing Commission (Commission). **Senator Guthrie** stated he hoped the legislation would be printed in the House, but it was unable to garner support. He explained the bill will provide necessary funding for Commission operations to allow continued live and simulcast horse racing in Idaho.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Burgoyne** inquired about the source of the funding and the effect of the bill on other recipients. **Senator Guthrie** explained the new formula for distribution of advance deposit wagering money would result in slightly decreased funding to the remaining recipients, but losing the horse racing industry would decrease funding to zero. He stated that the House's reluctance to print the bill is unrelated to the distribution formula.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 28707** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Stennett** asked if the bill would be printed merely for discussion purposes, or if the House will hear the bill. **Senator Guthrie** replied that he hopes a Senate hearing on the bill will generate enough interest in the issue for the House to consider the legislation.

**VOICE VOTE:** The motion to send **RS 28707** to print carried by **voice vote**.

**HCR 10** **Stating Findings of the Legislature to recognize the centennial of the Idaho State Capitol's dedication..**

**Representative Caroline Nilsson Troy**, District 5, presented the resolution recognizing the centennial of the Statehouse.

**MOTION:** **Senator Burgoyne** moved to send **HCR 10** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**HJM 1**

**A Joint Memorial Regarding China's involvement during the initial phases of the COVID-19 outbreak.**

**Representative Aaron von Ehlinger**, District 6, explained the memorial is intended to send a message to the U.S. Congress and President about the need to hold countries accountable for their actions. He stated the memorial contains facts obtained from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and he provided the Committee with a related handout (see Attachment A).

**DISCUSSION:**

**Senator Heider** inquired how the memorial will influence the federal government or China. **Representative von Ehlinger** responded that it is important for Idaho to speak up regarding China's actions related to the pandemic.

**Senator Burgoyne** stated his confusion about the realities concerning COVID-19, that it is no worse than the flu and it is not a problem. The perception is, a political party has made COVID-19 a political issue in order for doctors to make money and political partisans to gain power over other people. The resolution before the Committee indicates that sickness and death caused by COVID-19 is real. **Senator Burgoyne** asked, given the rhetoric, what is the status on this issue? **Representative von Ehlinger** responded that he didn't disagree with some of Senator Burgoyne's statements. He stated that regardless of the scientific and biological makeup of Covid-19, it has been a disaster both economically and healthwise.

**Senator Stennett** asked to see documentation that China caused the pandemic and for an example of facts contained in that documentation. She expressed concern that Idaho could be subject to retaliation for taking positions for or against various countries. **Representative von Ehlinger** replied that the Missouri Attorney General (MAG) and the DHS provided the information. He added that he will supply DHS documents to support the memorial. **Representative von Ehlinger** advised that the memorial includes direct quotes from the DHS report or from a court brief written by the MAG. He read several examples from the memorial.

**Senator Winder** commented that supporters of balancing power between the Legislature and the executive branch do not believe COVID-19 is a frivolous concern but rather that one person should not have sole authority to make the types of decisions made during the pandemic. He mentioned that he would like to see the DHS report to justify the significant claims made in the memorial.

**Representative von Ehlinger** advised that although he brought up science and biology regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, his opinions are neither scientific nor medical in nature. He urged support for the memorial.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Heider** moved to send **HJM 1** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Burgoyne** seconded the motion.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Senator Guthrie** moved that **HJM 1** be held in Committee subject to the call of the Chair. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The substitute motion carried by **voice vote**.

**Chairwoman Lodge** reported that **HJM 1** will be held until the Committee receives the requested documentation. She asked for information regarding shipments to China from the Port of Lewiston.

**S 1171**

**Relating to Alcoholic Beverages to provide an exception from restrictions on entering or remaining upon the premises of a retail wine establishment.**

**Senator Winder** presented the bill, which would allow minors to enter the premises of retail wine establishments if accompanied by an adult. He stated the bill would treat retail wineries with tasting facilities the same as breweries. The bill will support businesses and protect the rights of business owners.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Heider** inquired why it is necessary for minors to enter retail wine establishments. **Senator Winder** answered that the bill would allow an owner's or customer's child to enter with the parent as well as with legal customers..

**Chairwoman Lodge** commented that parents cannot leave their children in the car and must take them everywhere.

**TESTIMONY:** **Ilene Dudunake**, owner of A New Vintage Wine Shop in Meridian, testified in favor of **S 1171**. She explained her retail store also has a wine bar, and the bill would allow an adult to purchase a bottle of wine without leaving a child outside the building or in the car.

**MOTION:** **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **S 1171** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Guthrie** moved to approve the Minutes of January 25, 2021. **Senator Burgoyne** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**Senator Winder** moved to approve the Minutes of January 29, 2021. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**Senator Guthrie** moved to approve the Minutes of February 1, 2021. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**Senator Stennett** moved to approve the Minutes of February 3, 2021. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**Senator Harris** moved to approve the Minutes of February 5, 2021. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairwoman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.

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Senator Lodge  
Chair

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Twyla Melton  
Secretary

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Jeanne Jackson-Heim  
Assistant Secretary