

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 01, 2022
- 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:** None
- GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.
- Chairman Crane** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 29159:** **Rep. Nash** presented **RS 29159**. This legislation was presented last session and became **H 335** but never made it to vote. It seeks to address election integrity by ensuring all districts with 100,000 residents or more have candidate names rotated on ballots instead of a fixed order. This prevents the psychological preference known as "ballot order effect" voters may have towards a candidate who is listed on the top. The ballot order rotations were removed in small districts about ten years ago to save money but the exceptionally close outcomes in recent elections support larger districts renewing ballot order rotation to ensure fairness in the selection process.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Furniss** made a motion to introduce **RS 29159**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 29223:** **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 29223**. This legislation was passed by the House in 2020 but was held in the Senate and is being re-introduced for the purpose of limiting aggressive taxation efforts by requiring a waiting period of 11 months after a bond vote before a district can hold a new vote about the same bond. In response to committee requests, Rep. Scott agreed that information on impact to taxpayers incurred during the 11 month waiting period due to the flux of interest rates could be added to the bill prior to it receiving a full hearing.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Hanks** made a motion to introduce **RS 29223**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 29224:** **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 29224**. This legislation seeks to guarantee consumers making purchases subject to taxation in Idaho must be allowed to pay with cash. All people must be provided equal opportunity to pay with their choice of legal tender. Businesses refusing to allow cash purchases are technically discriminating against customers based on the individual's financial status. In response to committee discussion, Rep. Scott provided an example of how a constituent reached out to her when a business refused to accept a cash payment of \$10 for a mandatory drug screen and said the consumer must pay via credit or debit card. The consumer did not have a credit or debit card. When the business would not accept his cash, he was unable to comply with his Probation requirements within the time frame required and became at risk of having his Probation violated. In response to committee concerns the bill did not address setting minimum or maximum limits for cash transactions, Rep. Scott said there is no established limit because individual

companies can decide what's reasonable for their products or services but they must allow people to pay with cash.

MOTION: **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 29224**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29267: **Rep. Hanks** presented **RS 29267**. It seeks to codify content from **H 339** during last session to ensure state officials or offices cannot mandate the use of masks or face coverings to contain or inhibit the spread of diseases, contagious or otherwise. In response to committee questions, Rep. Hanks stated people need to use common sense and have autonomy over whether they wish to wear a mask or not regardless of the purpose for the mask.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 29267**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Rebecca Fisk
Secretary