

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 08, 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:** Representative Furniss

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

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

RS 29409: **Rep. Crane** presented **RS 29409** which proposes the time frame allowed for candidates to file intent to run for office should be shortened from two weeks to one week. The extra week has seemed to prove a distraction for candidates and slows down legislative processing annually.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 29409** without the emergency clause. In response to committee questions, **Rep. Crane** said the emergency clause shouldn't affect candidates seeking re-election because they would have already filed and their campaigning schedule needs to be planned around filing deadlines. In regards to which week would be removed to shorten the filing time table, he said the end date for filing stays the same but the first week is removed.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 29409** as it is written. **Substitute motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29342: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 29342** which seeks to honor Idaho's National Championship baseball team, the Bandits, who have won despite interruptions and shut-downs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 29342** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ehardt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 29379: **Rep. Monks** presented **RS 29379** which would allow the use of public property by a political party or group for an event where the space is used in accordance with its limitations and equal access is allowed for candidates or parties regardless of political affiliations.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 29379.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 511: **Rep. Nash** presented **H 511** which seeks to ensure election integrity by rotating candidate names on ballots for all elections where the population is 100,000 or more. This is to avoid "ballot order effect," a psychological phenomenon which gives voter preference to the name listed at the top of the ballot. Anywhere from 3-7% of the total vote can be affected by ballot order especially where there is a tendency to have "low information" elections. The Secretary of State and County Clerk's offices have been consulted on this legislation and raised no expected difficulties or concerns to enact this procedure.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Nash** explained current election ballot order is decided by county clerks choosing a randomized alphabet and then candidate names are listed in fixed order accordingly. County clerks were the ones who established voter populations of at least 100,000 as having the most impact on election outcomes. There are several elections affecting populations of 100,000 or more across the state so it's not just one or two geographical areas.

- MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to send **H 511** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Nash** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to postpone presenting **H 512** as additional information needed was still incoming. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- DOCKET NO. 34-0000-2100:** **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Secretary of State presented **Docket No. 34-0000-2100**. No changes have been made since last year.
- DOCKET NO. 34-0000-2100F:** **Jason Hancock**, Deputy Secretary of State presented **Docket No. 34-0000-2100F**. The notable changes consist of most fees being condensed and simplified with only one change that would increase the cost to consumers. In response to committee requests for specific examples, Mr. Hancock explained consumers would now be able to pay one fee of \$60 and access as many product lists as they wanted during that transaction instead of a \$30 access fee and another \$30 for each product list.
- Mr. Hancock** introduced **Cathy Abbott**, the Finance Director for the office of Secretary of State who explained the one fee increase. Consumers could now access all desired documents online as a bi-weekly download for \$125 each time instead of a \$125 fee for delivery of printed copies once a month.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Andrus** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 34-0000-2100** and **Docket No. 34-0000-2100F**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to approve minutes from February 1, 2022 and February 2, 2022. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Rebecca Fisk
Secretary