

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 10, 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:** Reps. Armstrong, Holtzclaw

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.

Rep. Palmer called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

RS 29426: **Rep. Monks** presented **RS 29426** which seeks to codify and expand Executive Order 2021-04 issued by **Governor Brad Little** on April 7, 2021. Individuals will not be required to provide proof of vaccination or immunizations or negative test results in order to apply for or receive services provided by the state of Idaho, enter a government venue, or to be hired or maintain employment with the state with some exceptions. State employees whose job requires travel to areas where vaccines are required by law will be required to obtain the vaccines applicable by law to those areas. Schools have their own sub-section of requirements. This legislation does not deal with requirements issued by private sectors. In response to committee questions, Rep. Monks said he didn't know whether the verbiage specifying vaccinations for communicable diseases meant that there were vaccines required or even offered for non-communicable diseases.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane** made a motion to introduce **RS 29426**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
Rep. Palmer announced **H 532** would be removed from today's agenda at the request of the sponsor.

H 567: **Rep. Crane** presented **H 567** which would decrease the period of filing for a candidate wishing to run for election from two weeks to one week, stating there has been a trend by incumbents seeking re-election to delay dealing with large issues in legislation during election years. In response to committee questions, Rep. Crane stated that incumbents have shown the tendency to become obsessed with what everyone else is doing during those two weeks and vying for position or withholding ideas. The legislation gets held up and delayed due to political tactics and it shouldn't be that way.

In opposition to H 567 Hollie Conde, representing the Conservation Voters of Idaho (CVI) stated the process of running for office is a difficult and stressful one. In order to keep things fair for people who are not already political insiders, shortening the filing period will only increase the steep learning curve and stress for the average person trying to run for office. This process should not be even more stressful or allow processes that will likely discourage new people to get involved in local politics. In response to committee questions, Ms. Conde stated CVI is a non-partisan organization whose goal is to support candidates whose focus is on championing the environment and conservation efforts.

Rep. Crane returned to respond to additional committee questions. He stated he believes new candidates will not have issues filing their intent to run within a one week time frame any differently than a two week time frame but it will force incumbents to focus on the job at hand. Concerns issued by committee members included examples of new candidates needing longer than one week to correct paperwork issues found only once the intent to run is reviewed by the Secretary of State's office or County Clerk, such as needing additional signatures in order to meet the required filing criteria. In the case of incumbents, even ensuring adequate child care to allow the official to carry out the duties of an elected office could require more than one week to set up and their decision to seek re-election is dependent on resolving these family or other work obligations.

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a motion to send **H 567** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Discussion on the motion was held. Committee members expressed concern for enacting the legislation with the emergency clause attached because it would interfere with the current intent to run filing period.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a substitute motion to send **H 567** to the floor and strike the emergency clause.

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made an amended substitute motion to send **H 567** to **General Orders** to remove the emergency clause. **Amended substitute motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Gannon** and **Mathias** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Crane** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Rep. Crane announced **H 439** was removed from the agenda at the request of the sponsor.

Rep. Mathias announced he had an answer to the committee's earlier question about whether vaccinations were available for non-communicable diseases as the verbiage used in **RS 29426** suggested there could be. He explained the verbiage about vaccinations or immunizations for communicable diseases was used to clarify the state's position was of concern only for diseases that were communicable and therefore affecting the population at large, not whether there were other types of vaccines.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Rebecca Fisk
Secretary