

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 25, 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; after the end of 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.

Chairman Crane explained the committee will have a hearing on **H 659** with public testimony and it will be replaced with **RS 29659**, at which time he will entertain a motion to introduce the RS and recommend it be sent to the Second Reading Calendar.

RS 29613: **Rep. Moon** explained that **RS 29613** replaces a previous RS and creates an Election Integrity Fund with monies to defer the cost of state identification cards for those who cannot afford one. She reviewed the distribution of funds for this new process, and expressed her belief that the fiscal note was a high estimate based on the expected number of people that would use this service.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Moon** clarified that a person with a state driver's license would not need a state identification card to vote.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 29613**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29628: **Rep. Giddings** presented **RS 29628**, which would prevent drop boxes for ballot collecting. She discussed ballot harvesting that has been seen around the country, and believes it is not the best way to collect ballots. She pointed out that drop boxes can be an opportunity for elections to be disrupted by fire, flood or food in the drop boxes.

Some committee members requested examples of ballot box issues in Idaho. **Rep. Giddings** reported that there were no examples in Idaho, but was concerned because of recent occurrences in other states, specifically in Georgia.

Some committee members expressed their belief that this was a proactive way to have election integrity in Idaho.

MOTION: **Rep. Hanks** made a motion to introduce **RS 29628**.

Committee members expressed some concern about so many proactive arguments not always being the best way to handle issues, but hoped to learn more information as the RS is introduced.

In support of the motion, **Rep. Barbieri** believed if measures weren't taken, the burden would be put on the Secretary of State's office to verify which ballots are legitimate and which are not.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Chairman Crane** called for a vote to introduce **RS 29628**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 659: **Rep. Giddings** reminded the committee of **H 659**, legislation that would allow the public to examine records to ensure voters who have passed away are removed from voter rolls. She explained **RS 29659**, its replacement, would ensure that when Health and Welfare sends a list of those who have died, the information would include date of birth and enough information that names could accurately be pulled from voter rolls. New lines were added to make exceptions for provisions that made this information private.

RS 29659: **Blake Youde** on behalf of the Idaho Association of County Recorders and Clerks, thanked all those who were involved in listening to concerns and creating a solution.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to **HOLD H 659** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 29659** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Giddings** will sponsor the bill on the floor

RS 29633: **Rep. Young** presented **RS 29633**. This legislation will ensure proper alignment of calculations for how many petition signatures are required to force a recall election for a local elected official.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 29633**.

In answer to committee questions, **Rep. Young** made clear this legislation does not change percentages, it just clarifies when percentages are calculated it is based on the number of the electorate eligible to vote in the election that is in question.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Crane** called for a vote to introduce **RS 29633**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29609: **Rep. Skaug** presented **RS 29609**, which removes the responsibility of the Office of the Attorney General to provide legal representation to the Department of Lands and allows the Department of Lands to hire or contract its own legal counsel.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 29609**.

Committee members suggested that the fiscal note may be a little low and should be double checked.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Crane** called for a vote to introduce **RS 29609**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Susan Werlinger
Secretary