

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 01, 2022

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Representative(s) Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Monks, Scott, Andrus, Young, Furniss, Hanks, Skaug, Gannon, Mathias (Woodings)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Palmer

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 9:02 a.m.

H 577: **Rep. Young** presented **H 577** and **RS 29672**. These pieces of legislation tie together the religious exemptions of the coronavirus vaccinations with the existing protections of free exercise of religion. These protections are found in Idaho Code 73-402, the Freedom of Religion Protection Act. **RS 29672** makes the change, found in lines 32-34, which allows for a quicker resolution to the issue, rather than the time period listed in the original. **Rep. Young** requested that **H 577** be held in committee, and **RS 29672** be sent to the floor.

MOTION: **Rep. Hanks** made a motion to **HOLD H 577** in committee.

Rep. Barbieri made the comment that the burden on the employer interest outweighs the First Amendment interest of the employee. **Rep. Young** agreed with the statement.

Del Chapel testified **in support** of the bill. He also stated his opposition to the coronavirus vaccine, and how it is a violation of religious liberties, and that individuals should not lose their jobs due to a vaccine.

Samuel Edwards, is a retired Coast Guard officer and works for one of Idaho's largest employers. He stated that he had to learn how to request a religious exemption for the vaccine, which he received, and spoke of his colleagues who were not as fortunate as he was and did not receive the religious exemption. The denials were made, in his opinion, because of the drastic description of their request that was misconstrued.

Rep. Skaug declared Rule 80 stating a possible conflict of interest, but stated his support of the bill.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 29672** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Woodings and Gannon** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Young** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 647: **Rep. Nichols** presented **H 647** and **RS 29680C1** which adds a section to Idaho Code stating certain elements cannot be granted personhood status in the state of Idaho. There are two changes from **H 647** to **RS 29680C1**: the first found on line 12, stating it is in regards to non-human animals, and the second found on line 14, which is added language.

- MOTION:** **Rep. Hanks** made a motion to **HOLD H 647** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Rep. Hanks** made a motion to introduce **RS 29680C1** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Nichols** will sponsor the bill on the floor,
- RS 29288:** **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 29288** a resolution in regards to the abortion opinions of the Supreme Court of the United States. Rep. Scott stated that pre-born people have equal rights to every living person, and every year 1,500 unborn children are aborted in Idaho.
- In response to committee questions, **Rep. Scott** clarified that there are no criminal punishments for abortions. With the concern of verbiage in the legislation, Rep. Scott stated she is willing to change **RS 29288** with the suggestion from **Rep. Young**. There were questions regarding the possibility of citizens traveling to other surrounding states to get an abortion, and Rep. Scott explained this legislation has no control over other states, and what people do in other states.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Hanks** made a motion to **HOLD RS 29288** for time certain, March 2, 2022.
- SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Young** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 29288** with changes on page one, lines 35-36, and on page two, line 11. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Woodings** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.
- RS 29653C1:** **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 29653C1** which ends the state of emergency that was put into place by **Governor Brad Little**.
- Rep. Skaug** made the request that in the bill hearing the committee could hear from someone in the Governor's office.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Young** made a motion to introduce **RS 29653C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Haley Villa
Secretary