

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 02, 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 (Woodings)

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

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. Young** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 16, 22, 2022, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29475: **Rep. Dixon** presented **RS 29475** which gives procedure for federalism and allows the members of the legislature to put a pause on the action, if they think the federal government is acting out of its scope of authority. It is identical to the bill that was passed last year.

MOTION: **Rep. Furniss** made a motion to introduce **RS 29475**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Dixon** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 695: **Rep. Young** presented **H 695** which clarifies that the number of petition signatures needed to force a recall election should be calculated by the number of electors that are eligible to vote for the official whose election is in question.

MOTION: **Rep. Hanks** made a motion to send **H 695** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Young** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 693: **Rep. Giddings** presented **H 693** which removes the use of ballot drop-off boxes. It addresses the concern of drop-off boxes not being monitored and the potential fraud or ballot box tampering that could take place.

Shiva Rajbahandari, Sam Sandermire, Hollie Conde, from Conservation Voters for Idaho, **Alicia Abbott, Josie Christensen, and Angela Barkell** all testified in **opposition** of the bill. The main points of their testimonies included worries that voters who work long hours, those who have irregular work schedules, elderly citizens, poll workers, voters who live a long distance from a voter poll or ballot drop-off location, and individuals who are too busy to make it to the polls on election days will suffer from the lack of ballot drop-off boxes and their opportunity to cast their vote will be foregone. There was also mention that ballot drop-off boxes feel safer than dropping a voter ballot in the mail due to the fear that it might get lost, and not make it the destination. Those individuals who are immunocompromised also became the topic of testimonies, in hopes that ballot drop-off boxes would remain available with the concern of COVID, and being able to socially distance.

Rep. Giddings concluded that not every county that have drop-off boxes have security or surveillance on the drop-off boxes. She stated that most counties provide postage for absentee ballots, and there are more ways to cast a vote than to use a drop-off box. The goal with this legislation is to rebuild trust in the voting process.

MOTION: Rep. **Armstrong** made a motion to send **H 693** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. **Gannon** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 693** in committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 3 AYE, 10 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Furniss, Gannon, and Woodings. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Reps. Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Andrus, Young, Hanks, and Skaug. Rep. Monks was absent/excused.**

ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Original motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE, 3 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Reps. Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Andrus, Young, Hanks, and Skaug. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Furniss, Gannon, and Woodings. Rep. Monks was absent/excused. Rep. Giddings** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 692: Rep. **Moon** presented **RH 692** which cleans up certain code, removes the affidavit of invalid voters, and adds a change in requirement, with the change being that an individual present identification which includes an Idaho's drivers license, Idaho Identification card, current US Passport, Active US Military card, current tribal identification, or Idaho licensed concealed carry in order to register to vote. These Idaho State Identification cards will be made available for free, for voter registration purposes, for anyone who cannot afford them. Rep. Moon stated if one cannot provide the required forms of identification as a first time voter, then they are not eligible to vote. Each identification card that is issued will require a \$10 transfer from the Election Integrity Fund.

Asa Gray, the Elections Manager for Kootenai County, **Bridget Gibson, Ethan Hobson, Chris Yamamoto, Emilia Anders, Isabella Fardette, Saumya Sarin, Amaia Clayton, and Hollie Conde** all testified **in opposition** of the bill. The main concern from these testimonies was many first time voters do not have the identification cards required, nor the means to get one. There was speculation that the coming election was a motivator behind the legislation.

Rep. **Moon** concluded that the option to always get an Idaho identification card is available for those individuals, and it is essential to remove the affidavit. She ensured that every election is important and it is essential that there is matter in place to make sure that every vote is a legal one.

MOTION: Rep. **Woodings** made a motion to **HOLD H 692** in committee.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. **Scott** made a motion to send **H 692** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

ROLL CALL ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 9 AYE, 2 NAY, and 3 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Crane, Vice Chairman Armstrong, Reps. Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Furniss, Young, Hanks, and Skaug. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Gannon, and Woodings. Rep. Monks, Palmer, and Andrus were absent/excused. Rep. Moon** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 29694: **Reps. Gannon** and **Skaug** presented **RS 29694** which encourages the Endowment Fund Investment Board to dispose of all Russian investments.

MOTION: Rep. **Young** made a motion to introduce **RS 29694** with verbiage changes on line 7 and line 29. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29696: Reps. Gannon and Skaug presented **RS 29696** which directs PERSI to sell trade, or otherwise dispose of ruble currency assets and any asset owned by the Russian government.

MOTION: Rep. Young made a motion to introduce **RS 29696** with changes on line 21 and line 23. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Representative Crane
Chair

Haley Villa
Secretary