

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 22, 2023

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Raymond, Representatives Boyle, Cannon, McCann, Ehlers, Gallagher, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Mathias, Nash, Roberts

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Reps. Roberts, Nash, Nelsen

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.

Vice Chairman Raymond called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

SCR 103: **Chairman Andrus** presented **SCR 103**, which states findings of the Legislature and for approval of fee rules of the Department of Agriculture, the Idaho Sheep and Goat Health Board, and the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses reviewed by the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee and the House Agricultural Affairs Committee.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **SCR 103** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chairman Raymond turned the gavel over to **Chairman Andrus**.

H 349: **Rep. Pickett** presented **H 349** to modify current legislation to exempt livestock owners from liability for any harm caused by their animals if they roam from an open range to a herd district, except when the district is secured with fences, cattle guards, and cattle gates.

MOTION: **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to send **H 349** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Pickett** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Braden Jensen, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, proposed the Agricultural Protection Area Act to safeguard land and allow for the removal of land, while restricting local regulations and addressing nuisances, eminent domain, and the agricultural lands protection fund. This policy prioritizes preserving agriculture through voluntary agreements and positions. Under this act, each county and municipality in Idaho can receive applications for the creation of agricultural protection areas aimed at safeguarding and conserving farmland. The establishment of these areas will be overseen by a governing body, and the application process and criteria for granting land to be included in an agricultural protection area will also be determined by the governing body. The policy recognizes the voluntary nature of these agreements. The county's soil and water conservation district board of directors will serve as the agriculture protection area board. An emergency provision and an effective date are also included.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Representative Kevin Andrus
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary