

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 30, 2023

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Young (Cannon), Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Scott, Andrus, Skaug, Alfieri, Allgood, Crane(12), Gannon, Green

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

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.

Chairman Crane (13) called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

S 1186: **Rep. Manwaring** presented **S 1186**, legislation consolidating the March Presidential Primary with the May Primary Election date and clarifying the purpose of a Primary Election. Rep. Manwaring stated this legislation is a trailer bill to **H 138**, which has passed both bodies. Rep. Manwaring remarked this legislation provides the filing requirements and certification process from the Secretary of State to the state chair of each political party. In response to committee questions, Rep. Manwaring stated he has not consulted with the Central Committees regarding this change to the election date.

Dorothy Moon, Chairman, Idaho Republican Party, testified **in opposition** of **S 1186**, stating the primary stakeholder, the Idaho Republican Party, was not consulted regarding this legislation. Ms. Moon remarked they would like to move the Presidential Primary to February to draw more attention to Idaho.

Maria Nate, Idaho Republican Committee Secretary, testified **in opposition** of **S 1186**, stating the Idaho Republican Party did not receive an opportunity to provide input on this legislation.

Ron Nate and **Rod Beck**, testified **in opposition** of **S 1186** and provided a brief history of the caucus and primary systems in Idaho and stated this is a party decision.

Phil McGrane, Idaho Secretary of State, testified **in support** of **S 1186** and reminded the committee **S 1186** is simply a trailer bill to **H 138** which has passed both legislative bodies by a large margin and uses language currently in statute to clarify the entire process. Responding to committee questions, Mr. McGrane stated he and **Chairman Moon** discussed **H 138** and Chairman Moon expressed her desire to move the Republican Presidential Primary to February, however, funding was not appropriated for the Presidential Primary election.

Rep. Manwaring, presented closing testimony and reiterated what **S 1186** does and reminded the committee the political parties will be opted out unless they inform the Secretary of State that they would like to participate in the May Primary. Rep. Manwaring stated the Legislature has done a lot of work this session consolidating elections by removing the option of a March election date and this legislation continues the consolidation work.

Chairman Crane (13) stated **S 1186** died for lack of a motion.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:**

Chairman Crane (13) made an unanimous consent request to hold **S 1141** for one legislative day. There being no objection, consent was granted.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Lisa Hendricks
Secretary