

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 27, 2025

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Scott, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Skaug, Alfieri, Crane(12), Boyle, Dygert, Hostetler, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Achilles, Green (Dotter)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:**

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.

RS 31940: **Chairman Crane (13)** called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

Rep. Hill presented **RS 31940** which expands on current code where foreign governments will now be prohibited from purchasing any Idaho forest land, in addition to the current prohibition in purchasing agricultural land, water rights, mining claims or mineral rights. Any foreign adversary is also under the same prohibitions; however, under this legislation, the foreign adversary that owns any of these lands or resources must sell within 180 days of notice. If they do not sell, the land or resources will be sold by judicial foreclosure. Also, no foreign adversary may purchase or lease any property within the certain geographic boundaries to establish secure military operations areas.

Committee members asked for a better description of agricultural water rights and expressed concern about the complexity of the RS and if passed, they asked to drill down item by item on each part.

Rep. Hill explained military and national security areas. Other questions from the committee was around the process to take Idaho land back and sanctuary for military sections.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 31940**.

Committee members asked questions around eminent domain of all the private property in the state land, leasing to foreign adversary, and neighbors policing neighbors with the majority of proceeds for whistle blowers.

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

H 32: **Rep. Beiswenger**, presented **H 32** for the purpose to prevent the State of Idaho, it's political subdivision, or any state officers from mandating the use of face masks, face shields, or other face coverings as a means to prevent or slow the spread of a contagious or infectious disease. Exemptions offered to professionals around the medical industry, welders, construction workers and alike.

Committee members asked questions around state workers in food packing facilities, food protection issues, how this bill is different from all the other mask bills, consultation of public health facilities, the efficiency of N95 masks, government mandate comparisons, and fines for small businesses.

Fred Birnbaum, Freedom Foundation; **Thad Butterworth**, small construction business owner; **David Pettinger**, self; **Yvonne StSear**, self (facing jail time for not wearing a mask); **Kate Durkson**, Scientist; **Miste Karlfeldt**, HFI; **William Chandler**, Business Owner in Meridian; **Leslie Manookian**, President of Health Freedom Defense Fund; **Matt Edwards**, self; **Garth Gaylord**, self (jail time for not wearing a mask); spoke **in support** of the legislation.

Issues brought up by this group **in support** of the bill was government politicized, OSHA not following their own mask procedure, Senate not moving forward with previous bills, rights to breath, facing jail time, masks proven not to be effective, examples of scripture, avoiding tyranny, chemical exposure on cloth masks, concern for the children, and arrests with jail time for not wearing a mask.

Kelley Packer, self; **Brandon Couchman**, Chiropractor and Paramedic; **Heather Stout**, Self; spoke **in opposition** to the legislation.

Issues brought up by this opposing group were the uncertainty of other pandemics to come, National Safety and Health - 10 Routes of Protection, and concern over family auto immune disease.

Members of the Committee had questions around council members being tasked with the health of the people, analogy of council members restricting sugar for diabetics, dealings with the pandemic, implemented mask mandates, influences outside the city, government mandates from the state and the city.

Other comments from the Committee was around excessive fines and punishments, health district quarantine jurisdiction, bill becoming law, a society that has lost all faith in leaders, taking polls, risk vs. benefits, jurisdiction of arrest, the autonomy to make ones own decisions about their health care and allowing elected officials do their job.

Rep. Beiswenger made his closing comments and asked for the committee to send this bill to the floor.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **H 32** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 13 AYE and 2 NAY.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Crane (13), Rep's. Scott, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Skaug, Alfieri, Crane (12), Boyle, Dygert, Hostetler, Mickelsen, Pohanka.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Rep. Achilles and Rep. Dotter.** **Rep. Beiswenger** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary