

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 30, 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

**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 9:00 AM.

MOTION: **Rep. Achilles** made a motion to approve the minutes of January 27 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32073: **Rep. Crane (12)** presented **RS 32073** which states this legislation requires that only citizens shall vote in primary, general, federal, state, local, and public elections to include constitutional amendments, ballot initiatives or referenda in the State of Idaho. The Idaho Secretary of State shall verify the citizenship of all persons on the statewide voter registrations with Idaho Transportation Department and the Social Security Administration, remove ineligible voters and notify ineligible voters in writing.

MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 32073**.

Committee members raised questions around previous bill sponsor involvement, non-partisan group involvement, do conceal permits meet the citizen requirements to pass this legislation, the process of the derivative of one's name that the Secretary of State does not recognize and the software program set up to catch the order of one's name as in middle name first. A committee member also commented on the difficulty to vote due to name derivatives, the proper spelling of names on the books, small and large alphabet in the name such as McCormick, voter registration precinct that are different from the mailing address and zip codes.

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

RS 32083: **Rep. Alfieri** presented **RS 32083** regarding proposed legislation to clarify existing elections code, designating a unique alphanumeric mark on each ballot to prevent duplication of election ballots in an attempt to prevent election fraud.

MOTION: **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 32083**.

A committee member asked a question around the consideration of using paper ballots.

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

RS 32118: **Rep. Mickelsen** presented **RS 32118** in which the purpose of this House Rule 70 is to stop allowing any prior House member to be on the floor while the House is transacting business. House Rule 70 as currently written allows prior House members to be on the floor at any time without any approval. This rule could be problematic if a prior House member becomes a lobbyist or is running for office trying to make a political statement.

Committee members had questions around why the press or media should be on the floor, does the Speaker of the House have the final authority over which news media will be on the floor, and is there any concern about too many press on the House floor.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 32118**.

Rep. Barbieri made a comment around exploring more information on the registration and/or certification system at the bill hearing.

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

RS 32065: **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 32065** which would allow government entities to only display certain types of flags.

A committee member asked how to define property and does it include a physical building, City Hall, or County Court House. Other questions asked by the committee member were around city utility and flag poles in front or across the street of City Hall and the County Court House considered property for the government entity. The committee member wanted clarity within cities with investor own utilities verses publicly owned utilities, clarity on parking meters, bridges, transportation structures, highway districts expressing clarity around the definition of property.

Rep. Scott stated the goal around the definition of property would be any property owned by government. She also stated unification for all by our flags without pushed ideologies. A committee member made a comment about a visitor center in Sand Point, Idaho that flies a friendly Canadian flag due to close proximity to the border and would it be appropriate for the continuation of that flag to fly. Another committee member had a question around university students flying other types of flags.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 32065**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32093: **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 32093** which allows individuals to refuse evacuation orders but requires them to accept all risks and reimburse rescue costs if needed.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 32093**.

A Committee member asked how this may apply to a hostage situation or standoff and how would this prevent someone from being removed from their home. SWAT was also mentioned in the removal of people from their homes in dangerous situations. It was recommended by the Chairman to get with law enforcement to talk through these types of situations before the hearing.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Achilles** and **Rep. Casnor** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

RS 32070: **Rep. Boyle** presented **RS 32070**. This legislation prohibits public officials from allowing school district funds, personnel, and other resources to be used in support of teachers' unions. Depending on the outcome of district-by-district bargaining negotiations, some school districts may experience a modest by indeterminate increase in revenue. This could occur if unions are required to reimburse the district for any time teachers spend on union-related activities during school work hours.

A committee member asked if any teachers or school board members worked with her on this legislation. They were concerned that student outcome would fall and would like to do a deeper dive when this comes back to committee.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 32070**.

A Committee member had a question around the involvement of professional organizations.

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

RS 31933: **Rep. Hawkins** presented **RS 31933** which states the interests and role of the people of Idaho in the care, custody, and control of their children are both implicit in the concept of ordered liberty and deeply rooted in the nation's history and tradition. They are also among the unalienable rights retained by the people under the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The interests of the people include the high duty and right to nurture and direct their children's education. By statutes already in place, the legislature has long recognized and exercised its duty to protect the peoples' fundamental rights to nurture and direct their children's destiny, upbringing, and education. After decades of success in enacting statutory protections for the people of Idaho, this resolution will elevate the long-standing statutory provisions and protections to the Idaho Constitution by amending Section 9 of Article IX. At a time of strength in Idaho's education environment, this constitutional amendment strikes the outdated compulsory public school attendance provision and places language in the constitution that will ensure to future generations of Idahoans their ability to educate their children outside of the public schools of the state without undo government regulations and burdens.

A committee member had a question around the state's responsibility to make sure every child is educated.

MOTION: **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 31933**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Achilles** and **Rep. Casnor** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

RS 32026: **Rep. Bruce** presented **RS 32026** which outlines the process for Idaho citizens involved in legal proceedings with the federal government concerning grazing and /or water rights to request state assistance from the Constitutional Defense Fund. This bill specifies the criteria and procedures for the Constitutional Defense Council to consider such requests and provides details on the type of assistance offered.

Chairman Crane put the committee meeting at ease. Meeting was called back to order at 9:47 AM.

A committee member made a comment around the Stalk Water Rights on public land that incurred millions of dollars of legal fees with no compensation.

MOTION: **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to introduce **RS 32026**.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 32026** with the following changes, on Page 1, Line 10 strike out Private Attorney General and insert Private Council or Attorney General.

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Achilles** made an amended substitute motion to introduce **RS 32026** with the following changes, on Page 1, Line 10 strike out Private Attorney General and insert Private Council or Attorney General and on Line 27 change council to counsel. **Amended Substitute Motion carried out by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 AM.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary