

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 14, 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 (Schubin)

**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 9:01 AM.

MOTION: **Rep. Achilles** made a motion to approve the minutes for February 12, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32084: **Rep. Redman** presented **RS 32084**. This proposed legislation adds to Idaho employment law to prohibit employment of illegal aliens and require employers to E-Verify each new hire's legal employment status as a condition of employment.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 32084**.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a substitute motion to return **RS 32084** to the sponsor.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Chairman Crane (13)** called for a vote on the substitute motion to return **RS 32084** to the sponsor. **Motion failed by voice vote.** **Rep. Mickelsen** and **Rep. Schuban** requested to be recorded as voting **AYE**.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: **Chairman Crane (13)** called for a vote on the original motion to introduce **RS 32084**. **Rep. Mickelsen** spoke to the motion regarding the provisions, the Statement of Purpose and the fiscal impact. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32395: **Rep. Tanner (13)** present **RS 32395** which updates existing procedures to ensure that ballots and ballot papers are secure and cannot be tampered with. It emphasizes the importance of safeguarding the integrity of voting by making the ballots harder to counterfeit and/or duplicate.

A committee member made a comment regarding the breakdown of pricing on the holograms for each ballot..

MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 32395**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 166: **Rep. Ehlers** presented **H 166**. This legislation allows for electronic publication on the State Controller's website for public notices (including public works projects) and other publications required by law. It directs the State Controller to facilitate electronic publications in a staggered implementation schedule. This legislation directs the state controller to create the ability for users to subscribe and receive push notifications and clarifies that notices sent through mail may be included in a regular mailing such as a utility billing.

Jeremy Pisca, Newspaper Association of Idaho; **Matt Tranquil**, President & Publisher of The Idaho Press; **Jim Phillips**, The Mountain Express Newspaper; **Sara Westbrook**, The Idaho Association Counties; **Pam Morris**, Publisher of The Idaho Mountain Express Newspaper; **Clint Schroeder**, Newspaper Association of Idaho; **Travis Quast**, APG of East Idaho; spoke **in opposition** of **H 166**.

Committee members asked questions about the different private notices that are published, response to counties with no newspaper, bias's around public notices and access to those public notices, selections around public notices, saving the public money by printing digitally, moving public notices in the same direction as the newspapers moved the Legislature to online subscriptions, different rate schedules, and the cost to print public notices.

Rep. Ehlers made closing statements around tax payer's savings, nine counties without newspapers, stats and analysis around the Controller website, costs for publishers, terms of services being revoked, and why rates are not being changed to be paid to the newspaper.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **H 166** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation with comments regarding access and pricing around broadband, internet subscriptions, and print paper.

Committee members had concerns about the balance of paper notices, tax saving balances, distribution control of information, non-trust of government control, stats around Idahoans with internet access, and third-party private enterprise harm.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Rep. Achilles** requested a roll call vote on **H 166**. **Motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE and 7 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Crane (13), Scott, Palmer, Holtzclaw, Skaug, Crane (12), Hostetler, Pohanka. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Barbieri, Alfieri, Boyle, Dygert, Mickelsen, Achilles, Schubin. Rep. Ehlers** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 32380: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 32380** which is designed to honor the 2024 Boise State University Football program who had one of the most successful seasons in it's history.

MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 32380. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32281: **Rep. Furniss** presented **RS 32281** which allows state and local governments additional time to respond to requests for public records from nonresidents, and to allow a different fee schedule to fulfill nonresident fee requests. Nonresident public records requests would need to be fulfilled within 30 days, subject to extension for unusual or exigent circumstances.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 32281. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32306: **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 32306** which will allow the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council the ability to certify individuals previously convicted of certain felonies. This legislation will allow the POST Council to review and make decisions on certification on individuals not convicted of felonies listed in the Idaho Code.

Committee members had questions around types of felonies, clarifications of violent felonies, domestic violence, bad people slipping through the cracks, unethical law enforcement backgrounds and waived offenses.

Due to the lack of a motion, RS 32306 was returned to the sponsor.

Chairman Crane (13) and Committee Secretary honored the House State Affairs Committee Page, **Ella Thompson**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary