

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, February 21, 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:** Representative(s) Boyle

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. Dygert** made a motion to approve the minutes for February 19, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Crane (13)** asked unanimous consent to have **H 221** be held subject to the call of the chair. There being no objection the request was granted. **Chairman Crane (13)** turned the gavel over to **Vice-Chairman Scott**.

RS 31858: **Rep. Moyle** presented **RS 31858** which creates a felony crime of criminal libel. This would apply when a person publishes false statements about another person, knowing that the statements are false, or with reckless disregard as to whether they are true or false.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 31858**.

A committee member made a comment around the legal analysis around 1st Amendment issues and making liars convicted felons.

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

RS 31995: **Rep. Moyle** presented **RS 31995** which would allow a candidate about whom false claims have been published to submit the material to the Secretary of State. If the Secretary of State finds the claims to be verifiably false, the party making the claims may respond to the Secretary of State, after which the Secretary of State is to publish his findings on his office's website. Voters have a place to be seen and people can verify that the claims were false.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 31995**.

A committee member had a question around how this will affect the positive claims that may be untrue.

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

RS 32357C1: **Chairman Crane (13)** presented **RS 32357C1**. This proposed legislation updates and reorganizes the campaign finance laws to increase transparency, simplify reporting, and improve enforcement to better align with increased spending and modern practices in political campaigns. Additionally, the legislation makes several changes designed to increase the frequency of reporting, adjust the campaign finance limitations, and improve enforcement by creating an improved fine structure. Some concerns are around out of state money to influence Idaho elections, monetization of politics, and PACS influence.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 32357C1**.

Committee members commended the bill and had questions around appealing and changing the amounts individuals or companies can donate to city candidates.

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

RS 32434C1: **Chairman Crane (13)** presented **RS 32434C1**. This proposed legislation updates these laws by separating lobbying reporting from campaign finance reporting and increases the frequency of reporting by registered lobbyists during and outside legislative sessions. In addition, this legislation updates the definition of lobbying to indicate clearly that both direct and indirect efforts to influence policymaking are considered lobbying.

MOTION: **Rep. Holtzclaw** made a motion to introduce **RS 32434C1**.

Rep. Scott made a comment declaring rule 80 and asked questions around lobbying laws, addressing and lobbying the executive branch.

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

Vice-Chairman Scott turned the gavel over to **Chairman Crane (13)**.

H 254: **Rep. Tanner (13)** presented **H 254 and RS 32460** which update 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. This legislation also updates Idaho Statute 34-901 by removing references to outdated and unused technology while providing guidance for the use of technology available on some current voting systems, viz., unique ballot identifiers.

RS 32460:

Committee members had questions around stamping or printing on official election and absentee ballots, unique identifiers, county machine scans with unique identifiers, watermarks not unique identifiers, and preventing the duplication of ballots.

Rick Hogaboam, Canyon County Clerk; **Trent Tripple**, Ada County Clerks Office; **Jennifer Locke**, Kootenai County Clerk; spoke in support of **H 254**.

A committee member asked about number counts and tabulations and what kind of tool is used to count the ballots.

MOTION: **Rep. Achilles** made a motion to **HOLD H 254** in committee.

Rep. Scott declared Rule 80 on **H 254** and **RS 32460**.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Achilles** made a motion to introduce **RS 32460** and recommend it be sent directly to the second reading calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Tanner (13)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM.

Representative Scott
Vice-Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary