

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 24, 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 for February 20, 2025.
Motion carried by voice vote.

RS 32417: **Rep. Boyle** presented **RS 32417** which will ensure that no state employee will assist an outside entity in any legal manner against the State of Idaho.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 32417**.
Committee members asked questions regarding legislators as state employees, consulting clauses, and wrong doings of the state.

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

Chairman Crane (13) welcomed **State Treasurer Julie Ellsworth** and the Northern Idaho Girl Scouts of America.

RS 32456: **Rep. Mickelsen** presented **RS 32456** which proposes legislators and nominees to the legislature self-disclose any state or out-of-state travel related to legislative or governmental purposes, not paid for by themselves, to promote public confidence in government and transparency.

MOTION: **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to introduce **RS 32456**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

HJR 3: **Rep. Skaug** presented **HJR 3** which states a constitutional amendment addressing the findings of the legalization and normalization of unlawful drugs is in direct conflict with the Constitutional mandate. Such legalization is detrimental to the community, to the environment, to the economy and to the health of individuals and families.

MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to send **HJR 3** to the floor with **DO PASS** recommendation.
Joseph Evans, Kind Idaho Today; spoke **in opposition** to **HJR 3**.
Billy Knorpp, Self; **Robert Gillis**, Self; **Alex Joye Grenier**, Self; **Victor Miller**, Self; **Max Brown**, Self; **Kyle Brown**, Self; **Senator Grow**, Self; spoke **in support** of **HJR 3**.
Rep. Skaug mentioned the exceptions allowed for research and medicinal purposes.

Committee members asked questions around the affects of the initiative process, initiative process effectiveness, citizen initiatives requiring 2/3 votes in both chambers, definition of unlawful drugs, prevention of useful tools as 'illegal drugs' to be available to the medical community, and the process to allow medical marijuana accessible to terminal ill patients. Committee members had comments on the motion stating this legislation is an unnecessary policy, 2/3 majority to make certain drugs lawful is counter to the public interests, negative impact on medically proven techniques to treat cancer and other illness, concerned with the 2/3 requirements and initiative process conflicts.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:**

Chairman Crane (13) requested a roll call vote on **HJR 3**. **Motion carried by a vote of 12 AYE and 3 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Chairman Crane (13), Reps. Scott, Palmer, Holtzclaw, Skaug, Alfieri, Crane (12), Boyle, Dygert, Hostetler, Mickelsen, Pohanka. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Barbieri, Achilles, Green. Rep. Skaug** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 278:

Rep. Miller presented **H 278** which standardizes the dates and deadlines that county clerks follow in preparing and implementing elections. It would shorten the primary election filing period from two weeks to one week for legislative, statewide, and federal offices, while keeping it at two weeks for other offices. It would also limit early voting to a maximum of three weeks before Election Day, ensure adequate time for preparation of overseas military and absentee ballots, and provide clearer guidelines for candidate withdrawal.

Committee members had questions around clarification of the write-in candidate filing dates, Secretary of State certification of candidates, Former **President Biden's** voting issues, primary election filing dates, and different filing periods.

Kayla Dodson, League of Woman's Voters of Idaho; **Bonnie Shuster**, Self; spoke **in opposition** to **H 278**.

Kelli Brassfield, Idaho Association of Counties; **Jason Dixon**, County Clerk; **Trent Tripple**, County Clerk; spoke **in support** of **H 278**.

Committee members had question around early voting window times, counties not participating in early voting, why is this mandatory, and grace period for technicalities.

Rep. Mitchell gave statistics on early voting counties and commented on trying to consolidate the early voting so everyone is on the same time line.

MOTION:

Rep. Alfieri made a motion to send **H 278** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Mitchell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary