

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Green

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 25, 2025.
Motion carried by voice vote.

RS 32517: **Rep. Price** presented **RS 32517**. This proposed legislation changes Idaho emergencies code to ensure the Legislature can exercise the ability to consider a concurrent resolution to end a disaster emergency at any time.

MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 32517**.

Committee members asked for information on water disaster emergencies and disaster emergencies beyond 60 days.

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

H 268: **Rep. Tanner (14)** presented **H 268** which deals with making changes to the classification of certain state employees by amending Idaho Code. The key aspects of the proposed changes are to executive employees making them nonclassified employees. Executive employee is defined as a position equivalent to a bureau chief or higher, with management responsibilities, including hiring, firing, and discretionary decision-making.

Committee members had questions around what the bill is trying to achieve, the affect of the bill, tangible examples of executive employees, at-will employees, how many employees this will affect, the affect of benefits, and less people for promotion. Another committee member commended the legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **H 268** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Achilles** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Tanner (14)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 294: **Rep. Crane (12)** presented **H 294**. The legislation reflects the amounts the Federal Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration program has directed state programs to adopt. They have advised the Idaho Public Utilities Commission that starting January 1, 2025 they will be taking over enforcement actions of the pipeline safety program. The key point is to restore Idaho's authority over the pipeline safety, its enforcement, and to maintain state control.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelson** made a motion to send **H 294** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

A committee member had a question around the federal code per violation.

Maria Barratt-Riley, Idaho Public Utilities Commission; **Randy Bareither**, Avista Utilities; **Hart Gilchrist**, Intermountain Gas Company; spoke **in support** of **H 294**.

A committee member had a question around incremental resource requirements on the Public Utilities Commission.

VOTE ON MOTION

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Scott requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Crane (12)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 320:

Rep. Mickelsen presented **H 320** which proposes legislators and nominees to 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 send **H 320** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members had questions around campaign funds reporting, definitions of disclosure reporting, itemization of spending, executive branch similar rules, special report for campaign travel funds, additional travel expenditure costs to be included in the bill, differences between professional development and lobbyist groups, and adding legislative bureaucrats and the executive branch to the bill.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. Crane (12) made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 320** subject to call to Chair.

A committee member had a concern around the cost aspect and another member requested to include the Executive and Judicial Branch's in this bill.

VOTE ON SUBSTITE MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:28 AM.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary