

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 03, 2025

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Bernt, Senators Anthon, Harris, Toews, Den Hartog, Adams, Shippy, and Ruchti

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Guthrie** called the meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

RS 31912 **Stating Findings of the Legislature. Representative Furniss** summarized that this legislation encouraged all agencies and departments in the State to implement a financial plan that included a spending, cash management, and revenue plan. The legislative goal was efficient management of cash for a better return on investment.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Bernt** moved that **RS 31912** be sent to print. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: A discussion ensued between **Senator Den Hartog, Vice Chairman Bernt** and **Chairman Guthrie** relating to the hearing of the House routing slip. The House Ways and Means Committee had closed to new legislation. **Chairman Guthrie** noted the legislation was heard as a courtesy to Representative Furniss. **Vice Chairman Bernt** stated he would carry the legislation.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried by **voice vote**.

NOTE: See reconsideration of **RS 31912** at the meeting's conclusion.

RS 32519 **Relating to the Idaho Travel Insurance Act. Representative Furniss** stated he had a potential conflict of interest pursuant to Senate Rule 39(H), as he was a licensed insurance agent and registered investment advisor. **Representative Furniss** stated the legislation clarified application of existing legislation and ensured that if an insured Idahoan died in another state the insurance death claim would be paid. **RS 32519** was based on the model adopted by the National Council of Insurance Legislators and was approved by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Thirty-seven states enacted this model act.

MOTION: **Senator Anthon** moved that **RS 32519** be sent to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 32522 **Relating to Property. Senator Adams** noted **RS 32522** established a framework for addressing what happened if a foreign government or foreign state-controlled enterprise owned a prohibited property right.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Bernt** moved that **RS 32522** be sent to print. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 177 **LEGAL TENDER - Adds to existing law to provide that gold and silver coin and specie shall be legal tender and to provide that no person or entity may compel another person or entity to tender or accept gold or silver coin or specie. Representative Steve Miller** described that the legislation declared gold and silver coins and bullion legal tender for a willing buyer and seller in the State of Idaho. Value was defined by the metal's value, not the stamped value, for coins minted in Idaho and by the United States Mint.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Adams** asked if other states had established a similar provision, and who would sponsor the bill. **Representative Miller** answered that, as of Spring 2024, six states had enacted similar legislation. Senator Hart would present the bill in the Senate.

MOTION: **Senator Adams** moved to send **H 177** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 141AA **EDUCATION - Adds to existing law to require all Title IX compliance to be vested in the president of each institution of higher education in the state of Idaho. Representative Pickett** noted this bill elevated accountability for Title IX compliance to the office of the president of two-year and four-year higher educational institutions. Input from higher educational presidential offices was received and incorporated via the amendment. Relating to staff, line 41 was changed from "within" to "reporting to" the president's office so additional staff was not required for bill implementation.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ruchti** queried if criticism of the bill as legislative overreach into the university's domain was received. **Representative Pickett** answered that no criticism was received; higher educational feedback centered on staffing concern, which was addressed by the amendment.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Bernt** moved to send **H 141aa** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Adams** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Ruchti** noted concern with the pattern of Legislators directing a government subset, such as a university president. He appreciated the intent of **H 141aa**.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 310 **ELECTIONS - Amends existing law to require certain anti-fraud measures to be employed to ensure election ballots are secure. Senator Toews** introduced **H 310**, summarizing it intended to prevent ballot fraud and duplication. He invited Representative Steve Tanner to present further. **Representative Tanner** noted **H 310** cleaned up Idaho Code § 34-901, removing outdated references to optically scanned ballots and unique markings. Ballots were identified and authenticated using water marking, holograms, security paper, or marking and stamping of the ballot. Three county clerks testified in support of the bill when it was heard by the House State Affairs Committee. **H 310** added no new cost to the counties.

TESTIMONY: **Hailie Johnson**, representing the Idaho Association of County Recorders and Clerks, expressed strong support of the bill from a technical perspective.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **H 310** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 206 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to transfer emergency medical services responsibilities to the Idaho Military Division.** **Senator Bjerke** stated that the population growth in Idaho necessitated restructuring Emergency Medical Services (EMS) before further growth increased complexity. **H 206** moved the EMS Bureau from the Department of Health and Welfare to the Idaho Military Division for improved coordination and governance. The Adjutant Military General, in charge of the Idaho Military Division, coordinated emergency management with state and local government through the Office of Emergency Management. All EMS programs except the Public Health Preparedness and Response Program would be moved effective July 1, 2025. **H 206** ended EMS rulemaking authority by July 1, 2027. The EMS program would propose codification of any necessary rules by the end of the 69th Idaho Legislative Session. Additionally, **H 206** consolidated EMS revenue funds, reduced administrative staffing, and replaced the commission of physicians with a single physician for medical oversight. Recognizing that creation of an EMS plan could be a large task for small counties, **Senator Bjerke** planned to subsequently modify the timeline for achievement of that task.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Shippy** asked for a summary of the EMS community's support and any opposition to **H 206**. **Senator Bjerke** noted the EMS community appreciated the State's support in categorizing it as a critical service. The consistency and direction provided, as well as increased involvement by counties, was appreciated. Concern of increasing government control was the criticism.

Vice Chairman Bernt inquired if Senator Bjerke requested a motion to send **H 206** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment. **Senator Bjerke** preferred a do pass recommendation.

TESTIMONY: **Kelli Brassfield**, Idaho Association of Counties, attested to appreciation of counties for the collaboration with EMS over the past three years. She supported **H 206**.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Bernt** moved to send **H 206** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 207 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES - Repeals and adds to existing law to provide for the recognition of the EMS personnel licensure interstate compact.** **Senator Bjerke** noted **H 207** was a trailer bill to follow the passage of **H 206**. He affirmed **H 207** moved the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA) to a single new chapter of Idaho Code created by **H 206**. REPLICA related to Idaho's EMS interaction with its six bordering states.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Bernt** moved to send **H 207** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MOTION: **Senator Anthon** moved to reconsider **RS 31912**. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 31912 **Senator Anthon** moved to return **RS 31912** to the sponsor. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 8:41 a.m.

Senator Guthrie
Chair

Kathryn Wells
Secretary