

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 04, 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.

RS 32539: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 32539**. This proposed legislation adds to the circumstances under which elected local offices would be considered vacant, to include when the local government office holder becomes a federal, statewide, or state legislative office holder. This proposed legislation also makes allowance for dual office holdings in those from smaller communities, where finding someone to serve may be more difficult. This change will also ensure a federal, statewide, or state legislative office holder's full attention and focus is given to the high office to which they have been elected, and their interest in the well-being of the citizens of their state or district is neither divided nor weighted. In addition, it prevents the concentration of power and allows more voices to be heard and represented in all facets of government.

Committee members had questions around conflict of interest individuals, communities complaining of dual jobs, does this include only city councilman or others around legislature, irrigation, fire, and cemetery districts, school districts less than 500 students, if county commissioners fit into this proposed legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 32539**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32576: **Rep. Barbieri** presented **RS 32576**. This proposed legislation provides for the designation where a birth certificate is amended to correct material facts, except in certain cases. The certificate shall not be marked as 'amended'.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 32576**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32587: **Rep. Crane (12)** presented **RS 32587** which states The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Legislative Task Force is established to enhance the effectiveness and accountability of governance in the State of Idaho. This task force will provide comprehensive recommendations for legislative improvements, ensuring fiscal responsibility and transparency. The DOGE Task Force will work toward a more efficient, accountable, and responsive government, aligning Idaho's governance with the best interests of its citizens.

A committee member asked if there was a Democrat on the legislative task force.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 32587**.

A committee member commented on being more thoughtful while taking on a DOGE task force in the state; especially around veterans.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote.

RS 32579:

Rep. Alfieri presented **RS 32579** which enhances Idaho's election security by empowering the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute election crimes across the state. It maintains the jurisdiction and authority of those currently responsible for such investigations and prosecutions. The bill permits, but does not require, the Attorney General to carry out these investigations.

A committee member had concerns around the responsibility of the Secretary of States office creating more bureaucracy.

MOTION:

Rep. Hostetler made a motion to introduce **RS 32579**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

HJR 4:

Rep. Skaug presented **HJR 4** which states 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. Therefore, a constitutional amendment addressing these findings is hereby declared to be reasonable and necessary.

Sen. Grow commented that Idaho is not open to drugs. Wyoming and Idaho have not been rolled over and Idaho has the initiative process to stay clean of drugs.

A committee member asked questions around the initiative process and the differences between **HJR 4** and **HJR 3**.

MOTION:

Rep. Scott made a motion to send **HJR 4** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Christian Brown, Self; **Grace Howat**, Idaho Family Policy Center; **Fred Birnbaum**, Idaho Freedom Foundation; **Victor Miller**, Self; spoke **in support** of **HJR 4**.

Joseph Evans, US Veterans with Kind Idaho; spoke **in opposition** of **HJR 4**.

Committee members asked questions around the public initiative process, legislatures control over schedule 1 drugs, and multiple hearings in committees around new medicines.

Rep. Skaug commented illegal drugs must remain illegal. Law enforcement, The Association of General Contractors, Idaho Family Policy Center, and Idaho Freedom Foundation all agree with the initiative.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Motion carried by voice vote. **Rep. Green** and **Rep. Achilles** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Skaug** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary