

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 07, 2025

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Scott (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 of the March 5, 2025, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32541: **Rep. McCann** presented **RS 32541** which corrects and amends Idaho Code Sections 31-131, and 31-142, as a result of two small scrivener errors made by the County surveyor in the legal descriptions of the amended Latah County and Shoshone County boundary lines that were adjusted in 2024.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 32541**.
A committee member asked if there was any opposition to this proposed legislation.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** **Rep. Green** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 32541** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
Rep. McCann will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 32603: **Rep. Boyle** presented **RS 32603** which provides that any range or forest fire burning on any land within Idaho is declared a public nuisance. The bill allows the Governor to declare an emergency exists threatening health, safety, welfare, and property directing state resources to immediately extinguish such a fire on federal land. It directs the Idaho Attorney General to recover costs in a civil action.
Committee members had questions around natural forests to have rural fire protections such as BLM, statute of limitations by placing 10 years added to the proposed legislation and limitation with respect to the United States.

MOTION: **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 32603**.
A committee member commented that there needs to be some statutes of limitation.
Chairman Crane (13) placed the committee at ease at 9:08 AM.
Chairman Crane (13) called the meeting back to order at 9:11 AM.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** **Rep. Skaug** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 32603** with the following changes: Page 2, line 15, strike out the word 'not', take out the period after limitations, and add the words, 'after ten (10) years.' **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 319: **Rep. Boyle** presented **H 319**. This legislation will ensure that no state employee will assist an outside entity in any legal manner against the State of Idaho.

Committee members asked how this bill would affect whistle blowers, does 'Assist' fall into the category of whistle blower, definition of loyalty and restrictive freedom, protection of fact finding witnesses, subject matter experts being prevented from testifying, would individuals not receiving compensation fall into the statute, broadness of unpaid experts, and gratuity.

A committee member had great concern around the title of 'State Employee Loyalty', loyalty to the people of Idaho and not the state, loyalty to the state has potential to prevent elected officials from fairly serving the people of the state.

Chairman Crane (13) explained with the lack of a motion, **H 319** will be held in committee.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:**

Chairman Crane (13) made a unanimous consent to re-organize the morning agenda. There being no objection, the request was granted.

RS 32183:

Rep. Andrus presented **RS 32183** which ensures wind turbine sites in Idaho are properly decommissioned at the end of their useful life or upon abandonment. It prevents landowners and the State from bearing the financial burden of removing wind energy infrastructure.

MOTION:

Rep. Achilles made a motion to introduce **RS 32183**.

Committee members asked questions around creating a bond depositing to the state verses posting bonds, inflation, and personal guarantees from the state.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote.

H 364:

Rep. Crane (12) presented **H 364** which states The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Legislative Task Force is hereby 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.

Committee members asked questions around redundancy, how results are enforced, time lines with specific dates, practicality of access, provisions to see where the money is going, statement of independents, ability for the committee to properly function.

MOTION:

Rep. Boyle made a motion to send **H 364** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Billy Knorpp, Self; **Rep. Jordan Redman**, District 3 Co-Sponsor; spoke in support of **H 364**.

Laura Miller, Self; spoke in opposition of **H 364**.

Rep. Crane (12) spoke about the legislation of red tape reduction, stream line efficiencies, and the job of each legislature is to be efficient and transparent.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Crane (12) will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 362: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **H 362**. This 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. It would not apply to those who hold state legislative office as a temporary or emergency successor. This legislation also makes allowance for dual office holdings in those from smaller communities, where finding someone to serve may be more difficult.

Committee members asked questions around conflict of interest, divided loyalty verses conflict of interest, the purpose of service, finishing out prospective terms, and advocating for the districts.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to send **H 362** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Green** and **Rep. Achilles** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Ehardt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 365: **Rep. Alfieri** presented **H 365**. This legislation 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 questions around counting elections and simultaneous investigations.

Jeff Nye, Chief of Criminology, Idaho Attorney General Office, fielded questions around simultaneous investigations and overlapping jurisdiction.

MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to send **H 365** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members asked questions around the process of investigation and the anticipation of seeing more jurisdiction investigations.

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

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

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary