

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 13, 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 (Schubin)

**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 11, 2025, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 395: **Rep. Garner** presented **H 395**. This legislation provides that entities which need more than 10 megawatts of power from a service provider such as a utility company must pay the full cost of the energy generated. The intent of this legislation is to ensure those entities that cause additional energy to be required to pay for that energy. Thus, customers of the service provider are not burdened with rate increases or expense since the cost of the new generation is allocated solely to the entity which caused the need for the new generation.

Committee members asked questions around how they came up with a 10 megawatts threshold and a 10 year time horizon.

Alex LeBeau, President of Idaho Association Commerce Industry; **Megan Ronk**, Director of Customer Experience and Economic Development for Idaho Power; **Tom Carter**, Rocky Mountain Power, spoke **in opposition** of **H 395**.

Justine Krivanec, President World Community Outreach Group & Realtor; **Eric Olsen**, Idaho Association; **Andrew Mickelsen**, Idaho Irrigators and Pumpers; **Taylor Grant**, Grant 4-D Farms; spoke **in support** of **H 395**.

Committee members asked **Alex LeBeau** questions around Idaho Farm Beau being in favor of the bill, solution to address moderate production facilities needed for growth, PUC solving expansion problems, costs to consumers to build out existing systems, and data center wholesale rates.

Megan Ronk answered questions around how does Idaho Power avoid higher prices, a time line around process, jobs created through the server farms, DPA Policy statement, long-term plans for meeting demands, top 5 commercial loads ranking for Idaho Power, role of PUC approval, lack of tools, 'no harm' analysis, good for all Idahoan's, retail rates, accurate numbers for wholesale rates, rates for residential customers verses industrial customers and how much does politics play in this bill.

Other questions from the committee were around energy producers to generate a portion of new energy demand, decision making within the PUC and the contractual relationships between the parties, rate breakdown between residential verses agriculture, cost per customer, and other information around rate classes. Committee members asked **Tom Carter** his suggestions around sufficient mega watts, if this bill could cause harm, costs for rate cases, and double digit rate increases.

Rep. Garner mentioned **H 395** will not stifle growth, but will bring competition to the market for large commercial users, and protection around existing users.

A community member asked a question around the load limit being too low.

MOTION: **Rep. Barbieri** made a motion to send **H 395** to General Orders.

A committee member stated his concern around big tech monopoly's through this system, Micron's impact, and tax breaks.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a substitute motion to send **H 395** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

A committee member had concerns around protections and solutions.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Substitute motion is carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Garner** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 344: **Rep. Price** presented **H 344** which 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. Scott** made a motion to **HOLD H 344** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32659: **Rep. Price** presented **RS 32659** which changes Idaho emergency code to ensure the legislature can exercise the ability to consider a concurrent resolution to end a disaster emergency at any time. There are exceptions for fire, flood, tornado, earthquake, and invasive species.

A committee member asked questions as to the new additions for the governor not to call the legislature back, what emergency would be needed to call the legislature back and sufficient enough time for emergencies.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott**, made a motion to introduce **RS 32659** and recommend it be sent directly to the second reading calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Price** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 356: **Rep. Hill** presented **H 356** which expands on current code where foreign governments are prohibited from purchasing any Idaho forest land to the already prohibition in purchasing agricultural land, water rights, mining claims or mineral rights. Under this legislation, the foreign adversary that owns any of these agricultural lands, mining claims or mineral rights must sell within 180 days of notice. If they do not sell, it will be sold by judicial foreclosure. No foreign adversary may purchase or lease any property within the certain geographic boundaries to establish secure military operations areas.

Colonel Kyle Carpenter of the Idaho Air National Guard spoke to the training that takes place in time of war and tactics and maneuvers with the National Guard.

MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to send **H 356** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Scott** and **Rep. Mickelsen** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Hill** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1037: **Rep. Shirts** presented **S 1037** which removes some obsolete sections of code from this legislation. These changes are based on the amended Unclaimed Property Act passed during the previous legislative session.

MOTION: **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to send **S 1037** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shirts** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:18 AM.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary