

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND URGING THE GOVERNOR TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION.

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Idaho issued a proclamation on March 13, 2020, declaring a state of emergency due to the presence in Idaho of the contagious disease known as the novel coronavirus or COVID-19 that presents a risk to the public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, Governor Little amended his previous proclamation to declare a state of extreme emergency; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2020, Governor Little amended his previous proclamations to address the dilemma of holding a primary and consolidated election during a pandemic, finding that many poll workers are older individuals considered at high risk for severe adverse health conditions or even death from COVID-19 and are therefore unwilling to serve any longer as poll workers; and

WHEREAS, the number of Idahoans testing positive for COVID-19 and the number of related deaths has greatly increased since Governor Little's April 1, 2020, proclamation, and the state of emergency has been extended several times by Governor Little and continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2020, Governor Little issued a proclamation calling the Legislature into extraordinary session to address certain issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that "citizen participation in elections by voting is essential to our republic"; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of Section 46-1008, Idaho Code, authorize the Governor to reallocate state resources to address an emergency; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho has received federal funding as a result of the state of emergency and declaration of disaster in Idaho, including CARES Act funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the House of Representatives, assembled in the First Extraordinary Session of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature, that we urge the Governor of the State of Idaho to take all necessary steps to procure a sufficient number of poll workers for the November 2020 election, including working with the Secretary of State and county election officials to advertise for and train new poll workers and volunteers and, if necessary, activate the members of the National Guard to be trained and act as election poll workers across the State of Idaho.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge the Governor to consider applying CARES Act or other emergency federal funds toward providing bonuses or other additional incentives for attracting and recruiting new poll workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Idaho and to the Idaho Secretary of State.