



**For Immediate Release
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Lawmaker Asks for Additional Member to Redistricting Commission to Eliminate Gridlock and Litigation

BOISE, Idaho – Idaho House Republican Caucus member Representative Steve Harris introduced legislation today, February 6, 2019 in the House State Affairs Committee, to increase the number of appointees who serve on the redistricting commission.

There are currently six members, three from each party, which has led to gridlock and ultimately lawsuits, costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal fees. In 2002, two reapportionment plans were struck down by the Supreme Court, and finally a third was accepted and implemented. In 2012 the first Commission was in a deadlock that ended up costing \$300,000 in legal fees with no outcome. A second Commission tried again but its plan was struck down by the Supreme Court. This approach proposed today's call for a more reasonable process, ending gridlock with the addition of the seventh member.

"We need to be fiscally responsible, and this minor change to the current process helps to promote that," explained Rep. Harris. "We can't continue to have a system that is automatically set up for litigation. An odd number of commissioners would eliminate that problem by serving as a tie breaking vote, if needed."

The law currently allows each party executive director and the House and Senate leadership to pick three individuals from their respective parties. The new legislation would continue that process but allow for the Executive Branch to select the seventh person by a vote of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Controller, State Treasurer and Superintendent of Public Instruction.

"This is a fair and proactive approach to the process. We need to eliminate ways that simply put us all in court. We can't have what happened to us seven years ago, happen again," said Harris.

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