New bill would allow concealed guns on Idaho campuses


By Associated Press March 3, 2011

BOISE, Idaho (AP) - An Idaho Falls lawmaker is pushing bill that would allow students, faculty and staff to legally carry concealed weapons on university campuses - except in residence halls.

Republican Rep. Erik Simpson's bill won initial approval from the House State Affairs Committee Thursday.

It seeks to limit the ability of administrators at Idaho's four public universities to restrict concealed weapons on campus. It preserves, however, the ability to keep concealed weapons out of dormitories.

Existing statutes give administrators authority to prohibit firearms anywhere on campus.

Simpson says the bill would increase safety by allowing armed, law abiding students or teachers to step in and help prevent violent crimes.

The legislation comes weeks after a student sued the University of Idaho over rules preventing him from storing firearms in his on-campus apartment.