

MINUTES  
**JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 28, 2024

**TIME:** 1:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room C310

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Senators Co-chairman Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, Herndon, Patterson (Ward-Engelking), Just  
Representatives Co-chairman Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Handy, Lambert, Petzke, Tanner, Green

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** None

**CONVENED:** **Co-Chairman Grow** called the meeting of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (Committee) to order at 1:00 p.m.

  

**LSO STAFF PRESENTATION:** **TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS: JUDICIAL BRANCH, Tim Hibbard, Analyst, LSO Budget and Policy Analysis**  
**Mr. Hibbard** presented a Judicial Branch budget technical correction before the Committee. The Committee action to address the technical correction would be included within the Judicial Branch budget enhancements.

**MOTION:** Moved by **Representative Raybould**, for the Judicial Branch an additional \$25,800 from the General Fund for fiscal year 2025; seconded by **Senator Cook**.

**CARRIED:** **AYES: 20**  
Senators Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, Herndon, Ward-Engelking, and Just  
Representatives Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Lambert, Tanner, Petzke, Handy, and Green  
**NAYS: 0**  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED: 0**  
The majority having voted in the affirmative, the motion passed and without objection carried a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by **Co-Chairman Grow**.

  

**LSO STAFF PRESENTATION:** **TRAILER TO H746: JUDICIAL SALARIES, Tim Hibbard, Analyst, LSO Budget and Policy Analysis**  
**Mr. Hibbard** presented the Judicial Salaries trailer budget before the Committee and stated it relates to H746 currently on the House floor.

**MOTION:** Moved by **Representative Raybould**, for the Judicial Branch an additional \$958,600 from the General Fund for judicial compensation for fiscal year 2025; seconded by **Senator Cook**.

**CARRIED:** **AYES: 20**  
Senators Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, Herndon, Ward-Engelking, and Just  
Representatives Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Lambert, Tanner, Petzke, Handy, and Green  
**NAYS: 0**  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED: 0**  
The majority having voted in the affirmative, the motion passed and without objection carried a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by **Co-Chairman Grow**.

**LSO STAFF PRESENTATION:** **FY 2024 DIVISION OF WELFARE, SUPPLEMENTAL – ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM, LBB 2 – 32; Alex Williamson, Analyst, LSO Budget and Policy Analysis**  
**Ms. Williamson** presented the FY 2024 Division of Welfare Supplemental-Eligibility Verification System before the Committee. She stated that as a result of S1445 failing on the Senate floor, it is necessary for the Committee to address not only the Welfare FY 25 budget, but also the FY 24 supplementals.

**MOTION:** Moved by **Representative Furniss**; for the Department of Health and Welfare, in the Division of Welfare, for fiscal year 2024, I move a onetime, net zero budget impact reducing personnel costs by \$1,082,500, and increasing operating expenditures by \$1,082,500 seconded by **Senator Bjerke**.

**CARRIED:** **AYES: 20**  
Senators Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, Herndon, Ward-Engelking, and Just  
Representatives Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Lambert, Tanner, Petzke, Handy, and Green.  
**NAYS: 0**  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED: 0**  
The majority having voted in the affirmative, the motion passed and without objection carried a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by **Co-Chairman Grow**.

**LSO STAFF PRESENTATION:** **FY 2024 DIVISION OF WELFARE, SUPPLEMENTAL – LIHEAP UTILITY ASSISTANCE, LBB 2-32; Alex Williamson, Analyst, LSO Budget and Policy Analysis**  
**Ms. Williamson** presented the FY 24 Division of Welfare supplemental before the Committee, stating the supplemental would provide a onetime appropriation from Federal funds for LIHEAP.

**MOTION:** Moved by **Representative Furniss**, for fiscal year 2024, for the Department of Health and Welfare, in the Division of Welfare, the onetime increase of \$4,289,200 from the Cooperative Welfare Federal Fund; seconded by **Senator Bjerke**.

**AYES: 17**

Senators Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, Ward-Engelking, and Just  
Representatives Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Petzke, Handy, and Green

**NAYS: 3**

Senator Herndon  
Representatives Lambert and Tanner

**ABSENT/EXCUSED: 0**

The majority having voted in the affirmative, the motion passed and without objection carried a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by **Co-Chairman Grow**.

**LSO STAFF  
PRESENTATION:**

**CONSIDERATION OF FAILED FY 2025 APPROPRIATION: DIVISION OF WELFARE; Alex Williamson, Analyst, LSO Budget and Policy Analysis**

**Ms. Williamson** presented for consideration before the Committee action to address the failed FY 25 Division of Welfare Appropriation bill, S1445.

**MOTION:**

Moved by **Senator Cook**, for the Department of Health and Welfare, in the Division of Welfare, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget add \$1,446,400 for the Federal Data Services Hub Interface; \$11,495,200 for Child Care Subsidies; and \$798,300 for the 2% CEC. For the Department of Health and Welfare, in the Division of Welfare for FY 2025, an additional \$666,000 from the General Fund, and \$13,073,900 from federal funds for a total of \$13,739,900; seconded by **Senator Bjerke**.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

Moved by **Representative Green**, for the Department of Health and Welfare, in the Division of Welfare, beginning with the FY 2025 JFAC Maintenance Budget add \$1,446,400 for the Federal Data Services Hub Interface; \$11,495,200 for Child Care Subsidies; \$7,173,800 for LIHEAP Utility Assistance; \$1,735,600 for the Summer EBT program; and \$798,300 for the 2% CEC. For the Department of Health and Welfare, in the Division of Welfare for FY 2025, I move an additional \$1,533,800 from the General Fund, and \$21,115,500 from federal funds for a total of \$22,649,300; seconded by **Senator Just**.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Representative Green** spoke in favor of the substitute motion. She stated that originally the Division of Welfare Appropriation bill came out of Committee with full support, and that she will always stand by children receiving necessary nutrition over summer months.

**AT EASE:**

The Committee went at ease at 1:16 p.m. to address an issue with computer monitors and was back in order at 1:19 p.m.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Ms. Williamson** asked the original motion makers and substitute motion makers to confirm that the budget numbers on the screen were correct. **Representative Green** reviewed the substitute motion numbers and confirmed the numbers were correct. **Senator Cook** confirmed the numbers were correct for the original motion.

**FAILED  
(SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION):**

**AYES: 8**  
Senators Ward-Engelking and Just  
Representatives Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Petzke, Handy, and Green  
**NAYS: 12**  
Senators Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, and  
Herndon  
Representatives Horman, Miller, Lambert, Tanner  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED: 0**

**CARRIED  
(ORIGINAL  
MOTION):**

**AYES: 16**  
Senators Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, Herndon  
Representatives Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Tanner, Petzke, and  
Handy  
**NAYS: 4**  
Senators Ward-Engelking and Just  
Representatives Lambert and Green  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED: 0**  
The majority having voted in the affirmative, the motion passed and without  
objection carried a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection, it was  
so ordered by **Co-Chairman Grow**.

**AT EASE:**

The Committee went at ease at 1:24 p.m. to confirm motion numbers and went  
back in order at 1:27 p.m.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Co-Chairman Grow** stated that the motion numbers were compared with  
numbers from S1445, and both were consistent as both did not have LIHEAP  
amounts. He thanked Senator Bjerke for confirming the numbers and stated  
that LIHEAP was included as a supplemental in FY 2024. **Senator Cook**  
stated there was \$27 million left in the LIHEAP account, a sufficient amount  
to get through winter.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT:**

Requested by **Senator Cook**, granted by unanimous consent, the following  
intent language was adopted:

**INTENT  
LANGUAGE:**

SECTION \_\_. To address the childcare needs of Idaho's workforce, the agency  
is encouraged to pursue and implement innovative solutions and partnerships  
for maximizing the value of federal funds through the Child Care Development  
Block Grant program.

**LSO STAFF  
PRESENTATION:**

**CHANGE: FY2025, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, Jared Tatro,  
Deputy Division Manager, LSO Budget and Policy Analysis**

**Mr. Tatro** presented action to remove language for Summer EBT funding from  
the Department of Education budget before the Committee.

**MOTION:**

Moved by **Senator VanOrden**, for the State Department of Education for fiscal  
year 2025, In addition to the action taken by JFAC on March 22 and March 27,  
2024, the reduction of 0.50 FTP, and \$60,000 from the General Fund for the  
Summer EBT Program; seconded by **Co-Chair Horman**.

**CARRIED:** **AYES: 17**  
Senators Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, and Herndon  
Representatives Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Lambert, Tanner, Petzke, and Handy  
**NAYS: 3**  
Senators Ward-Engelking and Just  
Representative Green  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED: 0**  
The majority having voted in the affirmative, the motion passed and without objection carried a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by **Co-Chairman Grow**.

**DISCUSSION:** **Mr. Tatro** stated that with the removal of Summer EBT dollars, Summer EBT language is no longer necessary.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT:** **Senator VanOrden** requested unanimous consent to remove Summer EBT language from the Department of Education FY 25 enhancement appropriation bill.

**OBJECTION:** **Representative Green** objected to the unanimous consent request.

**MOTION:** Moved by **Senator VanOrden**, to exclude the following language for the Summer EBT Program from the State Department of Education's FY 2025 enhancement appropriation bills, seconded by **Representative Tanner**.

SUMMER EBT PROGRAM. Of the moneys appropriated for the Summer EBT program in Section 1 of this act, all moneys are appropriated one-time and should be expended and accounted for as such. This program oversight and communication in the future should be conducted by the Department of Health and Welfare. The State Department of Education in cooperation with the Department of Health and Welfare shall report on Summer EBT expenditure data to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee by December 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

**CARRIED:** **AYES: 17**  
Senators Grow, Bjerke, Burtenshaw, Lent, Cook, VanOrden, Adams, and Herndon  
Representatives Horman, Miller, Bundy, Raybould, Furniss, Lambert, Tanner, Petzke, and Handy  
**NAYS: 3**  
Senators Ward-Engelking and Just  
Representatives Green  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED: 0**  
The majority having voted in the affirmative, the motion passed and without objection carried a **DO PASS** recommendation. There being no objection, it was so ordered by **Co-Chairman Grow**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business before the Committee, **Co-Chairman Grow** adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

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Senator Grow  
Chair

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Linsy Heiner  
Secretary