MINUTES
Approved by Council
Legislative Council
Friday, September 26, 2025
8:30 A.M.
Room WW17
Boise, Idaho

Speaker Moyle called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.; a silent roll call was taken.

Legislative Council (council) members in attendance: Speaker Mike Moyle, Pro Tem Kelly Arthur Anthon, Senators Lori Den Hartog, Phil Hart, Melissa Wintrow, and Alison Rabe; Representatives Jason Monks, John Vander Woude, Wendy Horman (Zoom), Ilana Rubel (Zoom), and Sonia Galaviz.

Legislative Services Office (LSO) staff present: Director Terri Kondeff and Hayley Kaae-Domgaard.

Opening Remarks

Speaker Moyle welcomed those in attendance and referred the council to their binders and the meeting minutes from the Legislative Council meetings held on November 7, 2024, and March 27, 2025.

Senator Den Hartog made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented for the Legislative Council meetings on November 7, 2024, and March 27, 2025; Representative Monks seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

Director's Report (Tab 1)

LSO Director Terri Kondeff addressed the council, provided a brief overview of the binder and agenda distributed to committee members, and proceeded to introduce new LSO staff to the council. Director Kondeff presented her PowerPoint address the Idaho Code Cleanup Act (H14), Reports to the Legislature (H215), the Survey of Tax Credit Recipients (H93), the Base Builder Analysis Tool, Strategic Plan Updates, and LSO division updates; between each subject, she opened the floor for questions from the council. She also presented the Idaho Code Cleanup Act (H14) for the Pacific Fisheries Legislative Task Force.

Representative Monks made a motion to approve the Pacific Fisheries Legislative Task Force for the Idaho Code Cleanup Act; Senator Den Hartog seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

Director Kondeff referred to the LSO FY 2027 Budget Request and the FY 2026 Strategic Plan.

Representative Monks made a motion to approve the FY 2027 Budget Request, Senator Den Hartog seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

Senator Rabe made a motion to approve the FY 2026 Strategic Plan; Senator Hart seconded the motion, and the motion passed by voice vote.

2026 Legislative Session Plans (Tab 2)

Pro Tem Anthon and Speaker Moyle reviewed January, February, and March 2026 calendars with important target dates and deadlines.

Office of Performance Evaluations Update (Tab 3)

OPE Director Ryan Langrill provided a booklet with updates on reports that have been published and reports in progress and took questions following broadband implications for the Next Generation 911 part 2 and segregation of systems of counties versus statewide. Director Langrill answered questions and participated in a high-level general discussion related to broadband and the 911 system.

Interim Committee Updates (Tab 4)

Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee

Research and Legislation Division Manager Matt Drake updated the council on the activities of the Occupational and Professional Licensure Review Committee. A sunrise review occurs on the legislative process's front-end before codifying any new rules or requirements in statute. This process explores whether there is a need to regulate a currently unregulated occupation or entity. On August 5, 2025, the committee met to hear a presentation by the Consortium for Interior Design Idaho ("the applicant") regarding an application for sunrise review ("the application"), including proposed legislation, that it submitted to the committee. Interior designers are not currently regulated in Idaho. The applicant seeks voluntary certification for interior designers with permitting privileges. The voluntary certification would protect the title "certified interior designer," and non-certified interior designers could still practice in Idaho. Permitting privileges would allow certified interior designers to sign and seal certain non-structural and non-seismic designs. The committee's work is ongoing. On September 23, 2025, the committee will hear public testimony regarding the application. By November 1, 2025, the committee will prepare a written recommendation regarding whether the applicant's profession should be licensed in the manner outlined in the application. The recommendation will be delivered to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for subsequent delivery to the appropriate germane committee chairpersons.

Medicaid Review Panel

Principal Analyst on the Impact Review Team, Alex Penny, presented an update on the Medicaid Review Panel. The Panel held a meeting on March 28, 2025. The meeting was focused on the organization, mission, logistics, and goals of the Panel. The Panel next met on May 23, 2025. Juliet Charon, Deputy Director of the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), spoke to the panel about progress on H345, federal Medicaid reform updates, DHW areas of interest, and a proposed timeline for implementing managed care. Sasha O'Connell, Deputy Administrator, Medicaid, discussed challenges regarding managed care in Idaho, and Christine Pisani of the Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities discussed considerations and recommendations for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Panel met on July 29, 2025. Sasha O'Connell provided an overview of federal legislation and the effects it would have on state Medicaid requirements and policies and answered questions of the Panel. Juliet Charon informed the panel that she would like to share a cost estimate with the Legislature in early 2026. The panel also heard from Christine Pisani, Melissa Vian, David Welsh, Keith Mason, and Dennis Baughman. The Panel most recently met on September 3, 2025, in Twin Falls. After opening remarks, Juliet Charon provided updates on the Medicaid budget and the Rural Health Transformation Program. The Panel received an overview of Telligen case management and discussed the consultant brought on by DHW to aid in the managed care transition process. The Panel discussed bringing in a consultant of their own. The Panel decided to schedule the next meeting in conjunction with the next DHW listening session and will likely meet in October or November. The committee's work is ongoing, and more meetings will be scheduled before the legislative session.

Committee on Federalism

Principal Analyst on the Impact Review Team, Casey Hartwig, presented to the Committee on Federalism. On July 30, 2025: the committee heard a presentation from the Office of Species Conservation on the role of their office. Representatives from NCSL addressed the overall effects of the Big Beautiful Bill Act (HR1) and specifically the effects on federal education funding. Dr. John Wagner, Director of the Idaho National Laboratory, discussed nuclear activities occurring under the Trump Administration, and the administrator of the DMV gave an update on the Idaho STAR Card program. Finally, Senator Burtenshaw discussed a water flow issue occurring at the Camas National Wildlife Refuge and Mud Lake. On September 8, 2025, Congressman Fulcher's office gave an update

on proposed BLM rules. The Committee heard a presentation on grizzly and sage grouse conservation from the Office of Species Conservation as well as a presentation on a pattern of big trees dying in Idaho forests. LSO's Budget and Policy Analysis division provided an update on PILT (payments in lieu of taxes). Finally, Dr. Dennis Becker of the University of Idaho gave a presentation on mass timber buildings in Idaho. The Committee penned a letter to the members of the Idaho Legislature requesting their support for a joint memorial to the federal government, asking for protection for farmers and ranchers who seek reimbursement for livestock depredation due to wolves and bears.

Committee on Uniform Accounting and Transparency

Legislative Audits Division staff member Michael Phelan updated the council on the activities of the Uniform Accounting and Transparency committee. On March 6, 2025, the Uniform Accounting and Transparency Committee met in Boise. They discussed the Uniform Accounting & Reporting Manual, meeting cadence, and salary data reporting. First, John Iasonides, SCO Deputy Controller, discussed the changes made to the Uniform Accounting & Reporting Manual by the State Controller's Office. The State Controller's Office made all changes that were recommended during the October 28, 2024, meeting. A motion to adopt the manual as modified was passed by the Committee. Then, the Committee discussed future meeting cadence to allow the Committee to meet if members or stakeholders had concerns that needed to be addressed. A motion to meet at the call of the Chair was passed by the Committee. Then, the Committee discussed salary data reporting. Mr. Iasonides was instructed to leave the salary data that had already been collected and reported by the State Controller's Office on the Transparent Idaho website. Mr. Iasonides was also instructed that moving forward, he was to report salary information for Cities, Counties, and Local Governments in an aggregate format and to collect that information on an annual basis as outlined in the approved accounting manual.

Land Use and Housing Study Committee

Senior Budget and Policy Analyst, Chris Lehosit updated the council on the activities of the Land Use and Housing Study committee. On May 14, 2025, the Committee met in Boise and heard from presenters regarding housing affordability in Idaho. The goal of the first meeting was to discuss ideas, gather information, ask questions, and get an overview of how land use and other factors affect housing costs in Idaho. The Committee heard from Representatives from the Idaho Association of Realtors, the Resort Cities Coalition, the Association of Idaho Cities, and the Idaho Building Code Board. On June 27, 2025, the Committee met in Idaho Falls with the goal of gathering more information from experts regarding the many challenges surrounding housing affordability in Idaho. The Committee heard from Representatives from the Associated General Contractors, Clayton Homes, the Idaho Association of Counties, the Pacific Companies, the Idaho Homebuilders Association, the Idaho Housing and Finance Association, the Idaho Association of Building Officials, and NeighborWorks Pocatello. On August 14, 2025, the Committee met in Sandpoint and focused on identifying local and private solutions to housing affordability challenges in Idaho. The Committee heard from Representatives from Kaniksu Land Trust, the Panhandle Affordable Housing Alliance, the American Planning Association, the Regional Housing Solutions Partnership, and the Coeur d' Alene Vacation Rental Alliance. At the end of the meeting, the Committee divided into four groups, each tasked with providing recommendations regarding their assigned topics – infrastructure, permitting, zoning, and financing. The groups will provide their respective reports to the Committee before the final meeting. The Committee as its final meeting on September 26, 2025, in Boise. The Committee plans to have speakers from the Association of Credit Unions, the Pacific Legal Foundation, the Mercatus Institute, and Hayden Homes. The Committee will determine its next steps at that time. No actions at this time. However, the Committee has one additional meeting and may decide to make recommendations thereafter.

America250 in Idaho Advisory Council

Director of the Legislative Services Office Terri Kondeff updated the council on the activities of the America250 committee. Over the past nine months, the America250 in Idaho Advisory Council has advanced preparations for the state's commemoration of the U.S. Semiquincentennial in 2026. The council adopted a framework focused on: celebrating America250 in Idaho, honoring the ideals of the American Revolution, and recognizing Idaho's place in American history. The council launched the Ambassador Program, now with more than 800 volunteers, supported by newsletters, social media, outreach tools such as the "Spuddy Buddies," and themed contests. It also authorized the creation of the Idaho America250 website and an online store to provide branded supplies for local communities. A project coordinator was hired to manage statewide planning and coordination. To increase community participation, the council established the America250 Celebration Micro-Grant Program, offering up to 100 grants for cities and counties to host events. Exhibits and events already held or scheduled include:

- *Two Lights for Tomorrow* (commemorating Paul Revere's ride)
- *American Revolution Experience Exhibit* (at the Idaho Capitol)
- *America250 Kickoff* on September 11, 2025
- *Four Score and Seven Years Before Exhibit* (opening February 14, 2026)

At the national level, Idaho's efforts align with the broader America250 themes of civic engagement, history, and innovation while incorporating state history. Federal funds have not yet been allocated, but up to $15 million may be distributed by the Department of the Interior for America250 events.

Idaho Council on Indian Affairs

Legislative Drafting Attorney Alli Olson updated the council on the activities of the Idaho Council on Indian Affairs committee. On January 23, 2025, the Council on Indian Affairs met at the Idaho State Capitol. The meeting began with a prayer offered by a Shoshone-Paiute councilmember, Brian Thomas. Then the Council heard from the Shoshone-Bannock representatives, Mike Steele, a Tribal Policy Analyst, and Jessica James, a Tribal Education Policy Manager, regarding the opposition to the Department of Education's endorsement of PragerU. After this presentation and a short discussion, the Council voted to send a letter to the Department of Education's Superintendent to promptly remove the PragerU curriculum as a resource for Idaho schools. The Council also heard from a Nez Perce representative, Rachel Edwards, regarding the opposition to and concern with the Idaho State Board of Education's adoption of the "Resolution on DEI Ideology in Higher Education." Blake Youde, a Legislative Advisor for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, provided an overview of the Idaho Safe Haven Act and discussed proposed amendments to the Act. Lastly, the Council was updated on the Owyhee Canyonland protection effort by Arnold Thomas from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes and heard testimony from Brian Thomas, a Shoshone-Paiute councilmember, regarding the cultural, ecological, and recreational importance of the Owyhee Canyonland. The Council voted to move forward with sending a letter to Superintendent Critchfield to remove the PragerU curriculum as a resource for Idaho schools.

Natural Resources Interim Committee

The committee did not meet.

COVID-19 Response Study Committee

The committee did not meet.

DOGE Task Force Update (Tab 5)

Cochairs Senator Todd Lakey (remote login) and Representative Jeff Ehlers directed the council to tab 5 in their binders and displayed a PowerPoint to update the Council on the DOGE Task Force members and their purpose, a recap of 2025 meetings, portal submissions, the Idaho Code Cleanup Act (H14), and agency consolidations. The recap consisted of the past and future dates in 2025

and what was discussed at each meeting. The draft agenda for the upcoming September 29, 2025, meeting was reviewed. The DOGE portal submissions highlighted how many have been received so far. The top three selected policy areas are general government, education, and health. Then LSO recategorized the top three into the more specific top five categories: personal opinion, health/Medicaid, education, specific to an agency or its personnel, and state operations. The Cochairs then went over what the Idaho Code Cleanup Act (H14) is, the intentions, and the actions it will perform. Lastly, the Cochairs went over the State Agency Consolidation and what the DOGE Task Force is hoping to accomplish.

Medical Education Working Group

Cochair Representative Dustin Manwaring presented remotely. The purpose of their group is to deliver a medical education plan to the Legislators and the Governor before the session and increase state support by 10 seats to get to the number 30. The committee is putting together a plan to appropriate funds in order gain 10 seats per year over the next two years, with a long-term objective of building capacity in Idaho so the state can train and retain more Idaho doctors. There will be two more meetings in October 2025; they have invited the State Board to discuss licensing issues and how to tackle them going forward. The broader objective for the committee is to increase the number of physicians in Idaho, and the narrow objective is how the funding will be obtained.

Capitol Security Briefing

Lieutenant Jeff Fortner, Idaho State Police, was remote to give an update on the Capitol Security Briefing. Due to connection issues, the Lieutenant was unable to present. His presentation is tabled until the next meeting.

2030 Redistricting Update (Tab 6)

LSO Legal Counsel Elizabeth Bowen directed the Council to tab 6 in their binders and displayed her PowerPoint on screen to update on the Redistricting Data Program and the Block Boundary Suggestion Project. While discussing the Redistricting Data Program, she went over P.L. 94-171, the phases, LSO's role, and the timeline of when each phase should be executed. While going over the Block Boundary Suggestion Project, she explained what a census block is, what its uses are, and the LSO's plan to roll out the program.

Budget Overview (Tab 7)

Budget and Policy Analysis Division Manager Keith Bybee directed the Council to turn to tab 7 of their binders and displayed his PowerPoint on the screen. He gave a budget overview on Sine Die general funds from 2017 through the projection of 2027. Mr. Bybee then went over the update in general funds with the projections for 2027-2028 with a budget projection of 5.8% increase based on the average annual growth of 2013-2025. Then he explained the Division of Financial Management (DFM) economic indicators in reference to population growth, personal income forecasts, employment forecasts, and housing forecasts. Mr. Bybee discussed in detail the FY 2026 general fund update, going over the revenues, available resources, current appropriations, and estimated ending balance. He went over the budget stabilization fund and indicated there had been no change since FY 2025. Mr. Bybee explained the Public Education stabilization fund and the increase in funds of 5.3% since 2025. He went over the cash position from FY 2009 and the difference in FY 2026 beginning balances. He explained the FY 2026 Budget Adjustments and the FY 2026 Supplemental requests for each department: Public School Support, State Department of Education, Medicaid, Department of Corrections, Soil & Water Conservation Commission, CREP, and the Office of Information Technology.

Mr. Bybee also discussed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (HR1) and the main subjects it affects: tax conformity, federal student financial aid. Medicaid, SNAP, and hospitals. He discussed the maintenance Budget Request for FY2027, starting with the base and showing the difference from FY2026. He touched on the difference between FY2026 and FY2027 for the budget request enhancements. Mr. Bybee discussed the population forecast adjustments in relation to Public

School Support, Health and Welfare, Medicaid, and the Department of Corrections, showing the differences between the general fund, what amount is dedicated to funds, federal funds, and the total amount with everything added together. He concluded his presentation with the 2027 Budget Enhancements discussing Education, Health and Human Services, Public Safety, Natural Resources, Economic Development/Transportation, and general government cost starting with the general fund, which is dedicated, what amount is from federal funding, and the total amount added together.

Audit Division Update (Tab 8)

Legislative Audits Division Manager April Renfro directed the Council to turn to tab 8 of their binders and displayed her PowerPoint on the screen. She presented Limited Scope Financial Investigation reports in regard to Idaho State University and Bannock County and compliance with House Bill No. 776 (2022). She explained the timeline for review, starting in December 2021 through January 2025, of the financial steps that were taken. She discussed the agreement between ISU and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), as well as the Forensic Pathology Lab (FPC) license agreement and termination agreement.

Ms. Renfro explained what the MOU specified between Bannock County and ISU, including the location of property, the funds that would exchange hands, and where any remaining funds would be spent. The MOU indicated that any remaining balance from the project would be allocated as pass-through funding to Bannock County, which would not be compliant with the appropriation. She explained emails were sent back and forth between Bannock County and ISU about the FPC contract; communication that detailed Bannock County no longer moving forward with FPC on the ISU campus, and that it might move the project to county property. ISU staff raised concerns about the disbursed funds and asked if they should request a return of funds or notify the state of the change. Ms. Renfro detailed the media and legislative attention about the project and the funding. Different legislators requested information at various times about the project. ISU requested the MOU contract be terminated, requested a return of all funds, and requested a full accounting of expended amounts. Ms. Renfro stated that there was a return of a portion of funds from Bannock County for $684,817.68 in December 2024. She detailed the noncompliance with appropriations since ISU didn't have procedures in place to properly monitor the general funds received. She detailed the recommendations made to ISU and what their response to them is. She also talked about other investigations that are on the rise related to local government entities and what the approach to each request is.

Ms. Renfro explained why the FY 2024 annual comprehensive financial report was delayed, what the past ACFR audit process was like in STARS, and what the timeline is now with Luma. She detailed what the results look like, the types of opinions – unmodified versus modified and examples of each, findings related to qualifications, weaknesses, causes, and reconciliations. She also emphasized the difference between STARS and TATRs and explained that Luma interface reports sent to TATRs had issues, and the monthly reconciliation between TATRs and Luma was never initiated. As a result, errors occurred and went undetected. Ms. Renfro also discussed other interface issues and the delay in the FY2024 audit, so corrections will need to be made during FY2025, and they anticipate more corrections in the future. At the end of Ms. Renfro's presentation, Representative Monks stressed the importance of performance measures and balancing the budget with the State Treasurer's office.

Miscellaneous Announcements and Adjournment

No additional business, the Council adjourned at 1:13 p.m.