

# SENATE JOURNAL OF THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2025**

Senate Chamber

President Bedke called the Senate to order at 11 a.m.

Roll call showed all members present except Senators Den Hartog and Toews, absent and excused.

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Doug Armstrong.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sakia Bowman, Page.

The Senate advanced to the Third Order of Business.

### Reading and Correction of the Journal

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that the Senate Journal of the proceedings of February 4, 2025, was read and approved as corrected.

LAKEY, Chairman

There being no objection, the report was adopted and ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

On request by Senator Harris, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Fifth Order of Business.

### Petitions, Resolutions, and Memorials

Senator Toews was recorded present at this order of business.

### SCR 103 BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND  
AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO  
APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE AND  
COMPLETE A STUDY OF STATE AND LOCAL LAND USE  
REGULATIONS AND THE IMPACT ON HOUSING SUPPLY.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, Idaho's growing population has increased demand for housing, presenting challenges for Idaho residents. The availability of housing is essential to support Idaho's workforce, strengthen communities, and maintain the State's economic growth; and

WHEREAS, rising housing costs and limited housing supply create challenges for many Idahoans. Proactively addressing these issues can help ensure stable housing options for residents while supporting the State's economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, current land use regulations play a significant role in shaping housing development. A thoughtful review of these regulations can identify opportunities to balance oversight with the need to encourage housing production in a cost-effective and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, establishing an interim committee will provide an opportunity for a comprehensive review of local land use regulations and the impact on housing affordability and availability, including evaluation of city comprehensive plans and zoning codes to ensure alignment with Sections 67-6502(a) and 67-6508(a), Idaho Code, and the regulatory processes for conditional use permits. The committee will ultimately seek to identify opportunities to reduce regulatory building costs and waiting times and to provide greater flexibility in housing development; and

WHEREAS, a better understanding of the effects of land use regulations on housing can guide policymakers, developers, and community leaders in identifying practical and effective strategies to improve housing affordability while maintaining local control and regulatory integrity. The interim committee's work will promote transparency, collaboration between multiple stakeholders, and accountability, fostering informed decision-making; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has a unique opportunity to proactively address housing challenges by studying regulatory impacts and developing actionable, locally appropriate solutions. This approach will position the State as a leader in addressing housing affordability while respecting Idaho's values of fiscal responsibility, local control, and reduced red tape.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is authorized to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of state and local land use regulations and the impact on housing supply, which shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives, including two (2) members of the majority party and one (1) member of the minority party, and three (3) members of the Senate, including two (2) members of the majority party and one (1) member of the minority party. The Legislative Council shall authorize the committee to receive input, advice, and assistance from interested and affected parties who are not members of the Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nonlegislative members of the committee shall be appointed by the cochairs of the committee who are appointed by the Legislative Council. Appointments to the committee shall include, to the extent practicable, members from the Idaho Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Idaho Chapter of the American Planning Association, the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, the Association of Idaho Cities, the Idaho Association of Counties, the Idaho Associated General Contractors, the Idaho Association of REALTORS, the Idaho Home Builders Association, and other city, county, or consolidated city-county government and industry representatives as deemed necessary. Nonlegislative members of the advisory committee shall not be reimbursed from legislative funds for per diem, mileage, or other expenses and shall not have voting privileges regarding the committee's recommendations or proposed legislation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Services Office shall provide staff support to the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings, recommendations, including whether to reauthorize the committee, and proposed legislation, if any, to the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature.

**SCR 104**  
**BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, AFFIRMING THE FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NUREMBERG CODE IN GUIDING MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, AND RECOGNIZING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE NUREMBERG CODE AS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS, HEALTH, AND DIGNITY IN THE STATE OF IDAHO WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING COMPLEMENTARY ETHICAL STANDARDS.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, the Nuremberg Code was established in 1947 in response to the atrocities of nonconsensual and inhumane medical experiments conducted during World War II, serving as the first international framework for ethical medical and scientific research; and

WHEREAS, the Nuremberg Code sets forth the following essential principles:

- (1) Voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential, requiring individuals to have full knowledge of the nature, purpose, and risks of the research and the freedom to participate without coercion.
- (2) Research must yield results beneficial to society and not obtainable by other means, with all experiments grounded in sound scientific methods.
- (3) Unnecessary physical and mental suffering must be avoided, and no experiment should proceed if it is likely to result in death or disabling injury, except where the experimenter also serves as a subject.
- (4) The degree of risk should never exceed the humanitarian importance of the problem addressed by the research.
- (5) Adequate safeguards and facilities must be in place to protect participants, and research must be conducted by qualified and skilled professionals.
- (6) Participants must retain the right to withdraw from research at any time, and researchers must terminate experiments if continuation is likely to cause harm; and

WHEREAS, the Nuremberg Code remains the cornerstone of ethical research practices and has influenced subsequent international declarations and guidelines, including the World Medical Association (WMA) Declaration of Helsinki, the Belmont Report, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights; and

WHEREAS, the WMA Declaration of Helsinki reinforces the Nuremberg Code by emphasizing informed consent, independent ethical oversight, and the prioritization of participant welfare in research, particularly for vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the Belmont Report further complements the Nuremberg Code by identifying the principles of respect for persons, beneficence, and justice as essential to ensuring fairness, autonomy, and the minimization of harm in research practices; and

WHEREAS, UNESCO's bioethics and human rights framework highlights the integration of human rights into ethical research, emphasizing transparency, equity, solidarity, and responsibility toward future generations as critical considerations in addressing modern scientific advancements; and

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho is committed to safeguarding the health, dignity, and rights of its citizens, upholding the ethical principles of the Nuremberg Code while incorporating modern

advancements to address the complexities of contemporary medical and scientific research.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Idaho Legislature:

- (1) Reaffirms the Nuremberg Code as the foundational framework for ethical medical and scientific research, prioritizing the protection of human rights and the principles of voluntary consent and the prevention of harm;
- (2) Recognizes the complementary contributions of the WMA Declaration of Helsinki, the Belmont Report, and UNESCO's bioethics and human rights framework in addressing modern ethical challenges while reinforcing the core principles of the Nuremberg Code;
- (3) Urges all medical, academic, and research institutions within the State of Idaho to strictly adhere to the Nuremberg Code and these complementary guidelines, ensuring that all research involving human subjects meets the highest ethical standards;
- (4) Commits to reviewing and strengthening state laws and policies to ensure compliance with the Nuremberg Code, particularly in areas of informed consent, protection of vulnerable populations, and independent ethical oversight; and
- (5) Encourages the education of medical professionals, researchers, and the public on the principles of the Nuremberg Code to foster a culture of ethical responsibility and respect for human dignity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Idaho medical institutions, research organizations, and other relevant entities to reaffirm the State's commitment to the ethical principles of the Nuremberg Code as central to all research and medical practices conducted within Idaho.

[SCR 103](#) and [SCR 104](#) were introduced, read at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing.

The Senate advanced to the Sixth Order of Business.

**Reports of Standing Committees**

February 3, 2025

The Health and Welfare Committee reports it has had under consideration the Governorial reappointment of Timothy Rarick to the State Board of Health and Welfare, and the Committee reports the reappointment back to the whole Senate as it failed to garner a recommendation.

VANORDEN, Chairman

The report was ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate, and the paperwork was ordered returned to the office of the Governor.

February 5, 2025

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that [S 1050](#), [S 1051](#), [S 1052](#), [S 1053](#), and [S 1054](#) have been correctly printed.

LAKEY, Chairman

[S 1050](#) was referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee.

[S 1051](#) and [S 1052](#) were referred to the Health and Welfare Committee.

[S 1053](#) and [S 1054](#) were referred to the Agricultural Affairs Committee.

February 4, 2025

The COMMERCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES Committee reports it has had under consideration the Gubernatorial appointment listed below and the Committee recommends that said appointment be confirmed by the Senate:

Joshua Whitworth to the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho Board, term to expire September 1, 2029.

FOREMAN, Chairman

The Gubernatorial appointment was referred to the Tenth Order of Business, Motions and Resolutions, and ordered held at the Secretary's desk for one legislative day.

February 4, 2025

The HEALTH AND WELFARE Committee reports out [S 1035](#) with the recommendation that it do pass.

VANORDEN, Chairman

[S 1035](#) was filed for second reading.

February 4, 2025

The HEALTH AND WELFARE Committee reports it has had under consideration the Gubernatorial reappointment listed below and the Committee recommends that said reappointment be confirmed by the Senate:

Mark Watkins to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, term to expire July 1, 2026.

VANORDEN, Chairman

The Gubernatorial reappointment was referred to the Tenth Order of Business, Motions and Resolutions, and ordered held at the Secretary's desk for one legislative day.

February 5, 2025

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee reports out [S 1023](#) with the recommendation that it be referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business for amendment.

GUTHRIE, Chairman

There being no objection, [S 1023](#) was referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business, General Calendar.

February 5, 2025

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee reports it has had under consideration the Gubernatorial reappointment listed below and the Committee recommends that said reappointment be confirmed by the Senate:

Judy Bicknell Taylor as the Administrator of the Office on Aging, term to continue at the pleasure of the Governor.

GUTHRIE, Chairman

The Gubernatorial reappointment was referred to the Tenth Order of Business, Motions and Resolutions, and ordered held at the Secretary's desk for one legislative day.

February 5, 2025

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee reports out [HCR 2](#) with the recommendation that it do pass.

GUTHRIE, Chairman

[HCR 2](#) was referred to the Tenth Order of Business, Motions and Resolutions, and ordered held at the Secretary's desk for one legislative day.

On request by Senator Harris, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Eighth Order of Business.

#### Messages from the Governor

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bedke  
President of the Senate  
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Erik Olson of Bonners Ferry, Idaho, was reappointed to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to serve a term commencing July 1, 2024, and expiring July 1, 2029.

This reappointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate, and notice of reappointment is hereby given.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Brad Little  
Governor

The correspondence was ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

The Gubernatorial reappointment was referred to the Agricultural Affairs Committee.

February 4, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bedke  
President of the Senate  
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Mike Matthews of Declo, Idaho, was reappointed to the Commission of Pardons and Parole to serve a term commencing January 1, 2025, and expiring January 1, 2028.

This reappointment is subject to confirmation by the Senate, and notice of reappointment is hereby given.

Sincerely,  
/s/ Brad Little  
Governor

The correspondence was ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

The Gubernatorial reappointment was referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee.

On request by Senator Harris, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Tenth Order of Business.

#### Motions and Resolutions

On request by Senator Harris, granted by unanimous consent, the committee report relative to the Gubernatorial appointment of Lori Wolff retained its place on the calendar for one legislative day.

The President announced that the Resources and Environment Committee report, having been held, relative to

the Gubernatorial reappointment of Linda Mitchell was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the report be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Woodward, seconded by Senator Ward-Engelking, the Gubernatorial reappointment of Linda Mitchell as a member of the Lake Pend Oreille Basin Commission was confirmed by voice vote.

The President declared the report adopted and directed the Secretary of the Senate to prepare a letter of the Gubernatorial reappointment confirmation for his signature, attested to by the Secretary, to be transmitted to the Governor informing him of the action of the Senate.

The President announced that the Commerce and Human Resources Committee report, having been held, relative to the Gubernatorial reappointment of Tara Malek was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the report be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Semmelroth, seconded by Senator Guthrie, the Gubernatorial reappointment of Tara Malek as a member of the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board was confirmed by voice vote.

The President declared the report adopted and directed the Secretary of the Senate to prepare a letter of the Gubernatorial reappointment confirmation for his signature, attested to by the Secretary, to be transmitted to the Governor informing him of the action of the Senate.

Senator Den Hartog was recorded present at this order of business.

The President announced that the Health and Welfare Committee report, having been held, relative to the Gubernatorial reappointment of B.J. Stinger was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the report be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Ruchti, seconded by Senator Bjerke, the Gubernatorial reappointment of B.J. Stinger as a member of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired was confirmed by voice vote.

The President declared the report adopted and directed the Secretary of the Senate to prepare a letter of the Gubernatorial reappointment confirmation for his signature, attested to by the Secretary, to be transmitted to the Governor informing him of the action of the Senate.

The President announced that the Health and Welfare Committee report, having been held, relative to the Gubernatorial appointment of Trevor Sparrow was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the report be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Hart, seconded by Senator Taylor, the Gubernatorial appointment of Trevor Sparrow as the Health and Social Services Ombudsman was confirmed by voice vote.

The President declared the report adopted and directed the Secretary of the Senate to prepare a letter of the Gubernatorial appointment confirmation for his signature, attested to by the Secretary, to be transmitted to the Governor informing him of the action of the Senate.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the committee report relative to the Gubernatorial appointment of Robert Bloem retained its place on the calendar for one legislative day.

The President announced that the Local Government and Taxation Committee report relative to the Gubernatorial reappointment of Lee Heinrich was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the report be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Zito, seconded by Senator Semmelroth, the Gubernatorial reappointment of Lee Heinrich as a member of the Board of Tax Appeals was confirmed by voice vote.

The President declared the report adopted and directed the Secretary of the Senate to prepare a letter of the Gubernatorial reappointment confirmation for his signature, attested to by the Secretary, to be transmitted to the Governor informing him of the action of the Senate.

The President announced that the State Affairs Committee report relative to the Gubernatorial reappointment of Joseph Forney was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the report be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Ruchti, seconded by Senator Ward-Engelking, the Gubernatorial reappointment of Joseph Forney as a member of the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board was confirmed by voice vote.

The President declared the report adopted and directed the Secretary of the Senate to prepare a letter of the Gubernatorial reappointment confirmation for his signature, attested to by the Secretary, to be transmitted to the Governor informing him of the action of the Senate.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the committee report relative to the Gubernatorial appointment of Mike Roach retained its place on the calendar for one legislative day.

The President announced that the Resources and Environment Committee report relative to the Gubernatorial reappointment of Ronald Davies was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the report be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Zito, seconded by Senator Taylor, the Gubernatorial reappointment of Ronald Davies as a member of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was confirmed by voice vote.

The President declared the report adopted and directed the Secretary of the Senate to prepare a letter of the Gubernatorial reappointment confirmation for his signature, attested to by the Secretary, to be transmitted to the Governor informing him of the action of the Senate.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the committee report relative to the Gubernatorial reappointment of Allan Schneider retained its place on the calendar for one legislative day.

The President announced that [SR 102](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Adams, seconded by Senator Harris, [SR 102](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the resolution ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

The President announced that [SR 103](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Okuniewicz, seconded by Senator Rabe, [SR 103](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the resolution ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Eleventh Order of Business.

**Introduction, First Reading, and Reference of Bills,  
House Petitions, Resolutions, and Memorials**

**S 1055**

**BY COMMERCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE  
AN ACT**

RELATING TO ELECTRONIC PAYMENT TRANSACTIONS; AMENDING CHAPTER 36, TITLE 63, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 63-3643, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF AN ELECTRONIC PAYMENT TRANSACTION INTERCHANGE FEE ON ANY PORTION OF THE TRANSACTION AMOUNT THAT REPRESENTS A TAX OR GRATUITY UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, TO DEFINE TERMS, AND TO PROVIDE A PENALTY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**S 1056**

**BY COMMERCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE  
AN ACT**

RELATING TO STATE EMPLOYEES; AMENDING SECTION 67-5303, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT ATTORNEYS EMPLOYED BY THE DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES SHALL BE NONCLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**S 1057**

**BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION  
COMMITTEE  
AN ACT**

RELATING TO TAXATION; AMENDING SECTION 63-3029L, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE CHILD TAX CREDIT; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.

**S 1058**

**BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE  
AN ACT**

RELATING TO THE IDAHO SAFE HAVEN ACT; AMENDING SECTION 39-8202, IDAHO CODE, TO DEFINE A TERM; AMENDING SECTION 39-8203, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE OF INDIAN TRIBE MEMBERSHIP OR CITIZENSHIP AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 39-8204, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE PLACEMENT OF AN ABANDONED CHILD AND TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[S 1055](#), [S 1056](#), [S 1057](#), and [S 1058](#) were introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing.

The Senate advanced to the Twelfth Order of Business.

**Second Reading of Bills**

[S 1028](#) and [S 1029](#), by Judiciary and Rules Committee, were read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1003](#), by Resources and Environment Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1025](#), by Education Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1026](#), by Agricultural Affairs Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

The Senate advanced to the Thirteenth Order of Business.

**Third Reading of Bills**

[S 1037](#) was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Foreman arose as sponsor of the bill and opened the debate. The question being, "Shall the bill pass?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES--Adams, Anthon, Bernt, Bjerke, Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Coho (Lenney), Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Hart, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Shippy, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woodward, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 35.

Whereupon the President declared [S 1037](#) passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered transmitted to the House.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Fifteenth Order of Business.

**Miscellaneous Business**

On motion by Senator Den Hartog, seconded by Senator Wintrow, by voice vote, the Senate adjourned at 11:54 a.m. until the hour of 11 a.m., Thursday, February 6, 2025.

SCOTT BEDKE, President

Attest: JENNIFER NOVAK, Secretary