

MINUTES
HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 12, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW42

MEMBERS: Chairman Andrus, Vice Chairman Raymond, Representatives Cannon, McCann, Ehlers, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Miller, Beiswenger, Dygert, Leavitt, Mendive, Shirts, Mathias, Achilles

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Sauter, Mathias

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Raymond called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Shirts** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 6, 2025. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1033: **Rep. Boyle** introduced **S 1033**, which strengthens Idaho's Right to Farm Act by offering protections against meritless lawsuits and complaints. The bill allows agricultural operators to recover attorney's fees if they win a nuisance lawsuit, and imposes fines for repeated baseless complaints to state or local agencies. The legislation is not expected to have a significant fiscal impact, as the occurrence of lawsuits or complaints is unpredictable. It aims to reduce frivolous legal actions and save resources.

MOTION: **Rep. McCann** made a motion to send **S 1033** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Speaking **in support** of **S 1033**; **Spencer Black** President, Idaho Cattlemen's Association; **Braden Jensen**, Farm Bureau Association. They were of the opinion this would help with nuisance complaints.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1016: **Rep. Vander Woude** presented **S 1016**, which adjusts statutory fee caps and clarifies the Brand Board's authority and process for regulating fees within those caps. Additionally, the bill allows the Board to retain interest earned on its dedicated State Brand Board Account. The enactment of this legislation is expected to have the following fiscal impacts: no effect on the state's general fund and an estimated \$300,000 positive impact on the Brand Board's dedicated funding from the Idaho livestock industry. Regarding based on FY24 interest returns, there would be an estimated negative impact of \$40,000 to the state's general fund, offset by a corresponding positive impact of \$40,000 to the Brand Board's dedicated funding.

Cody Burlile, State Brand Inspector, gave further support for **S 1016**. He stated the revenue doesn't have the buying power it used to. The livestock industry will be paying the funds, not the tax payer.

Speaking **in support** of **S 1016** were **Ted Vander Schaaf**, State Brand Board chairman; **Spencer Black**, Idaho Cattle Association; **Daniel Waugh**, Idaho Horse Council; **Bob Naerebout**, Idaho Cattlemen's Association. They explained **S 1016** allows fees to stay within the fund.

MOTION: **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to send **S 1016** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Rep. Dygert** declared rule 80. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Leavitt** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1054: **Rep. Shirts** presented **S 1054**, which responds to rising costs and declining bean acreage in Idaho, leaving the Idaho Bean Commission (IBC) with less than a year's worth of reserves. The legislation updates outdated sections of the IBC's statute and raises the assessment amount, increasing the commission's revenue by approximately 25%. This adjustment will help the IBC meet its statutory responsibilities, as the assessment has not been increased since 1992.

Andi Woolf Beibye Executive Director, Idaho Bean Commission (IBC) explained the Bean Commission meets between three or four times per year. The compensation is from the assessment as they receive zero general fund money.

Speaking **in support** of **S 1054**, **Richard Wynn**, H. M. Clause, Inc.; **Monty Hamilton**, IBC; **Michael Goodson**, Grower Representative, IBC, saying they are in favor of the growers assessment increase.

MOTION: **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to send **S 1054** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Leavitt** made a substitute motion to **HOLD S 1054** in committee.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Substitute Motion failed by voice vote.** **Rep. Leavitt** requested to be recorded as voting **AYE**.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: **Original Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Leavitt** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Shirts** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Representative Raymond
Chair

Jayne Feik
Secretary