

MINUTES  
**HOUSE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 18, 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:** None

**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 Andrus** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Shirts** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025, and March 12, 2025 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 404:** **Rep. Tanner** introduced **H 404**, a bill aimed at supporting urban agriculture by allowing residential property owners to keep chickens (*Gallus gallus*) on their properties, while still enabling local regulations to maintain community standards. The bill encourages local food production, safeguards property rights, and addresses food security in urban areas. It does not apply to multifamily units, properties under agricultural zoning, or single-family homes on lots smaller than 0.25 acres. Additionally, the bill does not override city, county, or local ordinances.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Beiswenger** made a motion to send **H 404** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Speaking in support of **H 404**, **Bill Schultz**, HOA; **Nick Schofield**, self; **Thia Estes**, self; **Brian Almon**, self; **Emily Vergara**, self; **Melissa Green**, self.

Speaking in opposition of **H 404**, **John Osmond**, self; **Sherri Thomas**, CAI; **Noelle Rauschendorfer**, VF/CAI; **Andrea Van Zeebroeck**, CAI/self.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. McCann** made a substitute motion to lay **H 404** on the table.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 8 AYE, 8 NAY, 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Raymond, McCann, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Miller, Shirts. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Andrus, Ehlers, Beiswenger, Dygert, Leavitt, Mendive, Mathias, Achilles. Rep. Cannon was absent/excused.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Original motion failed by a vote of 8 AYE, 8 NAY, 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Andrus, Ehlers, Beiswenger, Dygert, Leavitt, Mendive, Mathias, Achilles. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Raymond, McCann, Garner, Nelsen, Pickett, Sauter, Miller, Shirts. Rep. Cannon was absent/excused.**

**Britany Hurst-Marchant**, Executive Director of the Idaho Wheat Commission, stated Idaho grows five of the six wheat classes, with soft white wheat being the most prominent, making up 68% of the state's production. Idaho is the top producer of hard white wheat and is known globally for its consistent, high-quality wheat. Much of Idaho's wheat is exported, particularly to Latin America, and used by companies like Nabisco and Pepperidge Farms. Idaho wheat is valued for its quality, grown in rich volcanic soil with irrigation, and remains a key ingredient in products like aquaculture feed. While not the cheapest on the market, its superior quality makes it a sought-after product worldwide. Wheat farming in Idaho is high-risk, but the state produces around 100 million bushels per year.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

---

Representative Andrus  
Chair

---

Jayne Feik  
Secretary