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IDAHO LEGISLATURE

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SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

NINETEENTH LEGISLATIVE DAY
FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

Senate Chamber

President Bedke called the Senate to order at 9:45 a.m.

Roll call showed all members present except Senators Kohl, Rabe, Toews, and Woodward, absent and formally excused by the Chair; and Senators Cook, Hart, and Lent, absent and excused.

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Doug Armstrong.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Easton Chandler, 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 January 29, 2026, 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 Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Fifth Order of Business.

Petitions, Resolutions, and Memorials

Senator Cook was recorded present at this order of business.

SR 113 BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE A SENATE RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE SENATE, CONDEMNING POLITICAL VIOLENCE, HONORING THE LIVES, LEADERSHIP, AND LEGACIES OF VICTIMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE, AND CALLING UPON ALL IDAHOANS, REGARDLESS OF BACKGROUND, PARTY AFFILIATION, OR CREED, TO REJECT ALL FORMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE.

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

WHEREAS, the foundation of a free and civil society is the ability to engage in open and respectful political discourse without fear of violence or retribution; and

WHEREAS, increased political violence has occurred throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the recent murder of political activist and leader Charles "Charlie" James Kirk while speaking at a peaceful

political event at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, was unconscionable; and

WHEREAS, the recent murder of Minnesota State Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark Hortman in their home as part of a strategic plan to kill elected officials in Minnesota was reprehensible; and

WHEREAS, our own state is not immune from such acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, in Idaho, law enforcement, first responders, public and civil servants, and elected officials are subjects of targeted attacks by those who wish them harm, thus eroding civility and creating a barrier between the people and their government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Senate, assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, that the Senate hereby condemns all forms of political violence and commends and honors the dedicated law enforcement and emergency personnel for their tireless efforts in finding the suspects responsible and the courts involved for bringing swift legal justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate honors the life, leadership, and legacy of the victims of political violence and calls upon all Idahoans, regardless of background, party affiliation, or creed, to reject all forms of political violence, to recommit to respectful debate, to uphold American values, and to respect and honor one another as fellow Americans today and in the future.

[SR 113](#) was 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

January 30, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that [SJM 108](#), [SCR 116](#), [SCR 117](#), [SCR 118](#), [SCR 119](#), [S 1238](#), [S 1239](#), [S 1240](#), [S 1241](#), [S 1242](#), and [S 1243](#) have been correctly printed.

LAKEY, Chairman

[SJM 108](#), [SCR 116](#), [SCR 117](#), [SCR 118](#), and [SCR 119](#) were referred to the Tenth Order of Business, Motions and Resolutions, and ordered held at the Secretary's desk for one legislative day.

[S 1238](#) was referred to the Resources and Environment Committee.

[S 1239](#) and [S 1240](#) were referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee.

[S 1241](#), [S 1242](#), and [S 1243](#) were referred to the Agricultural Affairs Committee.

January 29, 2026

The COMMERCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES Committee reports out [S 1221](#) with the recommendation that it do pass.

FOREMAN, Chairman

[S 1221](#) was filed for second reading.

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

Messages from the Governor

January 29, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bedke
President of the Senate
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Juliet Charron of Boise, Idaho, was appointed as the Director of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to serve a term commencing September 15, 2025, and continuing at the pleasure of the Governor.

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

Sincerely,
/s/ Brad Little
Governor

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

The Gubernatorial appointment was referred to the Health and Welfare Committee.

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 1244

**BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE
AN ACT**

RELATING TO REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEMS; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; REPEALING SECTION 33-2612, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO PURPOSE AND BOUNDARIES; REPEALING SECTION 33-2613, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO DEFINITIONS; REPEALING SECTION 33-2614, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO PETITION FOR ESTABLISHMENT; REPEALING SECTION 33-2615, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO A SYSTEM BOARD OF DIRECTORS; REPEALING SECTION 33-2616, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SYSTEM BOARD; REPEALING SECTION 33-2617, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO THE FINANCE OF REGIONAL SYSTEMS; REPEALING SECTION 33-2618, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO THE ADDITION TO OR WITHDRAWAL OF A REGIONAL SYSTEM; REPEALING SECTION 33-2619, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO ADMINISTRATION BY THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

S 1245

**BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE
AN ACT**

RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; REPEALING SECTION 33-117, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS; REPEALING SECTION 33-125B, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO PAY FOR SUCCESS CONTRACTING AND DUTIES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION; REPEALING SECTION 33-140, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO A REPORT OF HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS; REPEALING SECTION

33-356, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO SCHOOL BUILDING DESIGN AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY; REPEALING SECTION 33-523, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO STEM DIPLOMA; REPEALING SECTION 33-524, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO BILITERACY DIPLOMA; REPEALING SECTION 33-526, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO WORKFORCE READINESS AND CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIPLOMA; REPEALING SECTION 33-1010, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO APPORTIONMENTS WHEN MINES NET PROFITS ARE CONSIDERED; REPEALING SECTION 33-1011, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO TAXES TO BE LEVIED BY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS; REPEALING SECTION 33-1012, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO TRANSMITTAL OF COUNTY SCHOOL MONEYS; REPEALING SECTION 33-1624, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO RULES; REPEALING SECTION 33-2007, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO COST OF INSTRUCTION AND POSTAGE SUBJECT REIMBURSEMENT; REPEALING SECTION 33-2213, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO THE INDUSTRY PARTNER FUND; REPEALING SECTION 33-3305, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO APPROPRIATION FOR ASBESTOS REMOVAL AND BUILDING DEMOLITION OF ALL ALBION STATE NORMAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS NOT OF PRACTICAL VALUE TO THE CITY OF ALBION; REPEALING SECTION 33-4605, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO POSTSECONDARY CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP; AMENDING SECTION 33-1002, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE OBSOLETE LANGUAGE; AMENDING SECTION 33-3304, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE OBSOLETE LANGUAGE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

S 1246

**BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AN ACT**

RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS; AMENDING CHAPTER 7, TITLE 18, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 18-713, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND FACIAL COVERINGS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

S 1247

**BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AN ACT**

RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT; AMENDING TITLE 44, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 3, TITLE 44, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A SHORT TITLE, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO REQUIRE COVERED EMPLOYERS TO USE THE E-VERIFY PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT AND VIOLATIONS, TO ESTABLISH DEFENSES, TO PROVIDE FOR EXCLUSIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR INTERPRETATION, AND TO PROVIDE RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[S 1244](#), [S 1245](#), [S 1246](#), and [S 1247](#) 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 1227](#), by Education Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1226](#), by Judiciary and Rules Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1225](#), as amended, by Education 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 1222](#) was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. President Pro Tempore Anthon 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, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Keyser, Lakey, Lenney, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Ricks, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Shippy, Taylor, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 29.

NAYS—None.

Absent and excused—Hart, Kohl, Lent, Rabe, Toews, Woodward. Total - 6.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President declared [S 1222](#) 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 10:13 a.m. until the hour of 11 a.m., Monday, February 2, 2026.

SCOTT BEDKE, President

Attest: JENNIFER NOVAK, Secretary