

# SENATE JOURNAL

OF THE

## IDAHO LEGISLATURE

November 6, 2025

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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**FOURTH LEGISLATIVE DAY  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026**

Senate Chamber

President Bedke called the Senate to order at 10:45 a.m.

Roll call showed all members present except Senator Ruchti, absent and formally excused by the Chair; and President Pro Tempore Anthon and Senators Guthrie, Lent, and Zito, absent and excused.

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Doug Armstrong.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deacon Davis, 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 14, 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 Eighth Order of Business.

### Messages from the Governor

November 6, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bedke  
President of the Senate  
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Jerry Aldape of Boise, Idaho, was reappointed to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board to serve a term commencing April 11, 2025, and expiring April 11, 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 State Affairs Committee.

The Honorable Scott Bedke  
President of the Senate  
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Carl Rey of Boise, Idaho, was appointed to the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board to serve a term commencing May 12, 2025, and expiring April 20, 2027.

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 Resources and Environment Committee.

November 6, 2025

The Honorable Scott Bedke  
President of the Senate  
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Leighton Linning of Ammon, Idaho, was appointed to the Idaho Commission on Human Rights to serve a term commencing August 29, 2025, and expiring July 1, 2027.

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 State Affairs Committee.

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bedke  
President of the Senate  
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Kevin Settles of Boise, Idaho, was reappointed to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board to serve a term commencing April 10, 2025, and expiring April 10, 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 Commerce and Human Resources Committee.

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bedke  
President of the Senate  
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Jennifer White of Boise, Idaho, was appointed as the Executive Director of the Office of the State Board of Education to serve a term commencing May 12, 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 Education Committee.

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bedke  
President of the Senate  
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Scott Smith of Star, Idaho, was reappointed to the Commission of Pardons and Parole to serve a term commencing January 1, 2026, and expiring January 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 Judiciary and Rules Committee.

Senators Lent and Zito were recorded present at this order of business.

The Senate advanced to the Ninth Order of Business.

**Messages from the House**

January 14, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith Enrolled [HCR 20](#) for the signature of the President.

VORE, Acting Chief Clerk

The President signed Enrolled [HCR 20](#) and ordered it returned to the House.

The Senate advanced to the Tenth Order of Business.

**Motions and Resolutions**

Moved by Senator Den Hartog, seconded by Senator Wintrow, that the following attaches be elected to fill the offices provided for by the *Constitution* of the State of Idaho and by statute:

- Admin. Assistant to President Pro Tem .....Rellie Wisdom
- Asst. to the Majority Leader ..... Alicia Fowler-Rynearson
- Asst. to the Asst. Majority Leader ..... Jennifer O’Kief
- Asst. to the Majority Caucus Chairman ..... Peggy Moyer
- Sec. to the Secretary of the Senate ....Claudia Simplot Nally
- Assistant Secretary of the Senate .....Nikki Root
- Assistant Clerk ..... Rhône Grajcar
- Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Sarah Jane McDonald
- Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms .....Jerry Csutoras
- Doorkeeper ..... Randy Lyons
- Senate Chaplain ..... Doug Armstrong

Committee Secretaries:

- Agricultural Affairs ..... Rachel Verrette
- Commerce and Human Resources ..... Linda Kambeitz
- Education ..... Lauren Young
- Finance .....Linsy Heiner
- Health and Welfare ..... Madyson Crea
- Judiciary and Rules ..... Sharon Pennington
- Local Government and Taxation ..... Meg Lawless
- Resources and Environment ..... Shelly Johnson
- State Affairs ..... Abby Rowe
- Transportation .....Melissa Price

Majority Staff Assistants:

- Majority Staff Assistant .....Monica Anderson
- Majority Staff Assistant .....Jonathan Hyon
- Majority Staff Assistant .....Brendan Marczuk
- Majority Staff Assistant .....Tammy Perkins
- Majority Staff Assistant .....Ann Yanak

Minority Staff Assistants:

- Minority Chief of Staff ..... Erin Miller
- Minority Staff Assistant .....Julia Bennett
- Minority Staff Assistant .....Luke Trowbridge

Pages:

- Charles Butler, Caldwell
- Easton Chandler, Eagle
- Deacon Davis, Meridian
- Kristian Fusco, Eagle
- Marley Johnson, Eagle
- Finn Mecham, Eagle
- Amanda Olson, Rathdrum
- Jace Rackham, Nampa
- Emmy Roberts, Lewiston
- Cooper Smith, Nampa
- Shayla Tyler, Hayden
- Chayse Van Eps, Mud Lake

The question being, Shall the motion prevail?

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Anthon, Bernt, Bjerke, Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Hart, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Semmelroth, Shippy, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woodward, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 33.

NAYS—None.

Absent and excused—Adams, Ruchti. Total - 2.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President declared the attaches duly elected to their respective positions. The President instructed the Sergeant-at-Arms, Sarah Jane McDonald, to escort the attaches to the Desk at which time the Oath of Office was administered to the elected attaches and they were escorted from the Chamber.

The Senate advanced to the Eleventh Order of Business.

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

**S 1221**

**BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
AN ACT**

RELATING TO PERSI; AMENDING SECTION 59-1302, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A DEFINITION REGARDING WHO IS NOT CONSIDERED AN EMPLOYEE AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**S 1222**

**BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
AN ACT**

RELATING TO DOMESTIC WELLS; AMENDING SECTION 42-111, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE DEFINITIONS AND TO DEFINE TERMS; AMENDING SECTION 42-227, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE DRILLING AND USE OF WELLS FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES; AMENDING SECTION 31-3805, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A PROVISION REGARDING THE APPLICABILITY OF LAW RELATED TO WATER DELIVERY WITHIN SUBDIVISIONS; AMENDING SECTION 50-1334, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING THE REVIEW OF WATER SYSTEMS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**S 1223**

**BY RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
AN ACT**

RELATING TO WATER DISTRICTS; AMENDING SECTION 42-612, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING WATER DISTRICT BUDGETS AND TO PROVIDE THAT WATER USERS MAY AUTHORIZE A WATER DISTRICT TO CHARGE A FIXED FEE TO COVER ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH PROPERTY OWNERSHIP TRANSFERS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[S 1221](#), [S 1222](#), and [S 1223](#) were introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing.

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 11:10 a.m. until the hour of 10:30 a.m., Friday, January 16, 2026.

SCOTT BEDKE, President

Attest: JENNIFER NOVAK, Secretary