

SENATE JOURNAL

OF THE

IDAHO LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FORTY-FIFTH LEGISLATIVE DAY
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Senate Chamber

President Bedke called the Senate to order at 10:30 a.m.

Roll call showed all members present.

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Doug Armstrong.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Olivia Earle, 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 24, 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

SCR 121

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, DECLARING THAT THE EXISTING PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA REQUIRES REVIEW AND MODERNIZATION, AND REQUESTING THE IDAHO STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO PRESENT DRAFT LEGISLATION TO THE LEGISLATURE THAT REVISES THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA.

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

WHEREAS, Section 1, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Idaho provides that "it shall be the duty of the Legislature of Idaho to establish and maintain a general, uniform and thorough system of public, free common schools"; and

WHEREAS, the public school funding formula is the primary mechanism for distributing state appropriations to school districts and public charter schools and allocates more than \$2.5 billion dollars in state funds to local education agencies; and

WHEREAS, the current funding formula was last comprehensively revised in 1994 and was developed under educational delivery models and student needs that differ substantially from those of today, including traditional

brick-and-mortar schools, rural and remote districts, small and large districts, public charter schools, virtual education programs, and blended learning models; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes that student needs vary, including students with special needs who require additional educational resources and supports; and

WHEREAS, stable and transparent funding is essential to ensuring that all Idaho students have access to high-quality educational opportunities regardless of geography, school type, or learning modality; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature finds that it is in the best interest of the state to align the public school funding formula with Idaho's vision for education and to modernize the public school funding formula to ensure it meets constitutional obligations and the evolving needs of students, staff, and communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature declares the existing public school funding formula requires review and modernization to reflect contemporary educational practices, student needs, and work and research from the past decade.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, after collaboration with the Legislature, the Governor's office, the State Board of Education, school districts, public charter schools, and stakeholder groups, to develop and present draft legislation for a revised public school funding formula, including a financial breakdown for each school district and public charter school, for consideration during the First Regular Session of the Sixty-ninth Legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that recommendations for a revised public school funding formula shall be developed with the following guiding considerations:

(1) Constitutional duty. The funding formula should support the Legislature in fulfilling its constitutional obligation to maintain a general, uniform, and thorough system of public schools, as required by Section 1, Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Idaho, and support student academic growth, recognize additional needs of special student populations, and consider facility, safety, and operational requirements necessary to provide a thorough education;

(2) Accountability. The funding formula should be linked to improved student outcomes;

(3) Predictability and stability. The funding formula should provide local education agencies with the ability to reasonably forecast and budget for future fiscal years, minimize significant year-to-year funding fluctuations, and avoid abrupt funding reductions;

(4) Transparency. The funding formula should be clear and understandable and provide policymakers and stakeholders with meaningful insight into how funds are generated, allocated, and expended;

(5) Student needs-based funding. The funding formula should include weighted student enrollment in recognition that students require different funding supports; and

(6) Modalities and delivery systems. The funding formula should fairly and appropriately address the full range of public school modalities, including rural and remote districts, small and large communities, public charter schools, virtual education programs, blended learning models, and other innovative instructional approaches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall present draft legislation for a revised public school funding formula and an accompanying financial analysis at the fall meeting of the Joint Finance-Appropriations

Committee, with invitation to members of the House of Representatives and Senate Education Committees, in preparation for legislative consideration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to the Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Idaho State Board of Education.

SJM 112
BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, the United States was founded on principles of limited government, fiscal responsibility, and accountability to the people; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has experienced persistent budget deficits and a growing national debt for many years, raising ongoing concerns regarding long-term fiscal sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has allowed the federal government to accumulate a national debt exceeding \$38 trillion as of 2026, representing a significant burden on current and future generations of Americans; and

WHEREAS, proposals for a balanced federal budget have been considered for decades as one potential mechanism to promote fiscal discipline and constrain deficit spending; and

WHEREAS, public discussion regarding a federal balanced budget amendment has remained active nationwide, and such proposals continue to receive support from a substantial portion of the American public; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of the United States provides that "The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution" and subsequently shall be ratified by the states; and

WHEREAS, the United States has amended the Constitution of the United States 27 times through this proper and tested method contained in Article V; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes that amendments affecting federal fiscal policy and budgetary structure are appropriately addressed at the federal level through a deliberative and nationally uniform process; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho recognizes the many other states seeking to appeal to congress for this cause and the pervasive efforts of local, multi-state, and national groups to solve this issue for generations; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Idaho seeks to lead, with Idaho's federal delegation, in resolving this issue in an effort to save generations of Idahoans and Americans to come from the crippling debt and failures of the past; and

WHEREAS, United States Senator Mike Crapo has served the people of Idaho in Congress for 33 years since 1993 and serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance during the 119th Congress, and has served as Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance; and

WHEREAS, Jim Risch has represented Idaho as a United States Senator for 17 years since 2009, has served on the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and is

Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, where he has exercised oversight of federal spending; and

WHEREAS, Mike Simpson has served Idaho's Second Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives for 27 years since 1999 and has served on the House Committee on Appropriations since 2005, participating directly in the development and oversight of federal discretionary spending bills and shaping national budget priorities, playing a central role in determining federal funding levels and had responsibility over the stewardship of taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, Russ Fulcher has served Idaho's First Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives for seven years since 2019 and has served on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, addressing matters related to commerce and economic development, and has advocated for fiscal discipline, regulatory reform, and policies intended to promote economic growth and reduce federal spending; and

WHEREAS, United States Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch have demonstrated sustained leadership in prior efforts to advance a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States, most recently in 2023, reflecting their continued commitment to fiscal responsibility and positioning them to once again lead Congress in restoring long-term budgetary discipline.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature of the State of Idaho calls on Idaho's federal delegation to lead the Congress of the United States in balancing the federal budget and reigning in the national debt, including proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States that shall be ratified by the states requiring a balanced federal budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature encourages the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho to engage in discussion and deliberation on this issue within the Congress of the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, and to the legislatures of the other 49 states.

SJM 113
BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF CONGRESS, THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS, AND THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, the constitutional power of Congress "to coin Money [and] regulate the Value thereof," section 8, article I of the Constitution of the United States, imposes a solemn duty to preserve the long-term integrity of the nation's currency; and

WHEREAS, the United States now carries a federal debt exceeding \$38 trillion, with rising interest costs threatening fiscal sustainability and the prosperity of the American people; and

WHEREAS, without the backing of a tangible asset such as gold, there is no limit to the amount of bonds that can be sold or debt that can be created; and

WHEREAS, respected economist and former Federal Reserve Board nominee Dr. Judy Shelton has proposed that the United States Department of the Treasury issue limited tranches of treasury trust bonds, long-dated securities redeemable, at the holder's option, either in U.S. dollars or in a fixed weight of gold, thereby creating a transparent market test of dollar credibility, expanding investor demand for Treasury obligations, and providing an additional safeguard against inflation; and

WHEREAS, federal law, via 31 U.S.C. 5118(d)(2), expressly permits the inclusion of gold clauses in obligations issued after 1977, and the United States holds approximately 261.5 million troy ounces of gold reserves, portions of which could prudently collateralize an inaugural issuance without jeopardizing national security or reserve adequacy; and

WHEREAS, numerous states, including Idaho, have enacted sound-money statutes recognizing gold and silver coins as lawful tender, and Utah and Wyoming have authorized or held precious metal reserves as a hedge against federal monetary instability; and

WHEREAS, July 4, 2026, the nation's semiquincentennial, offers a potential timely and symbolic launch date for a pilot tranche of treasury trust bonds tied to a fixed weight of gold, reaffirming America's founding commitment to "stable money of intrinsic value" while preserving existing monetary institutions.

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

(1) The Legislature strongly supports the concept of treasury trust bonds, limited in scope and fully collateralized by a defined portion of the nation's gold reserves, as a voluntary market instrument to strengthen fiscal discipline and enhance global confidence in the dollar.

(2) The Legislature respectfully urges:

(a) Congress to enact enabling legislation authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue treasury trust bonds, pledging up to a prudent percentage of official gold reserves as collateral and establishing a transparent redemption trust mechanism;

(b) The President of the United States to sign such legislation and to direct federal agencies to facilitate its prompt implementation; and

(c) The U.S. Department of the Treasury to prepare operational protocols, including audits, delivery logistics, and reporting standards, and to initiate the inaugural auction of treasury trust bonds on July 4, 2026.

(3) The Legislature calls upon Idaho's Senators and Representatives in Congress to cosponsor and advocate for legislation enabling treasury trust bonds and to work toward bipartisan passage before the end of the 119th Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States in his capacity as the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Chairpersons of the House Committee on Financial Services and the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

SJM 114

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED AND TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump issued the Saving College Sports Executive Order on July 24, 2025, stating that "college sports are a uniquely American institution that provide life-changing educational and leadership-development opportunities." Further, "college athletics also provide substantial support to local economies and form an indelible part of family activities, pastimes, and culture in many communities"; and

WHEREAS, the executive order states that the future of collegiate sports is "under unprecedented threat", as "waves of recent litigation against collegiate athletics governing rules have eliminated limits on athlete compensation, pay-for-play recruiting inducements, and transfers between universities, unleashing a sea change that threatens the viability of college sports. While changes providing some increased benefits and flexibility to student-athletes were overdue and should be maintained, the inability to maintain reasonable rules and guardrails is a mortal threat to most college sports"; and

WHEREAS, the Boise State Broncos have contributed to Idaho's economic vitality with an annual cumulative economic impact of \$350 million, including significant visitor spending and job creation across the statewide economy; and

WHEREAS, Boise State University athletics has established a sustained record of competitive excellence at the NCAA Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) level since 1996, with an overall winning percentage among the top five football programs nationally, reflecting national prominence and excellence; and

WHEREAS, Boise State's football program currently holds the longest active streak of consecutive winning seasons in the FBS, demonstrating consistent high performance and program stability and creating deserved national recognition for the state of Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Boise State University athletics has demonstrated sustained competitive excellence in women's sports and in Olympic sports, including winning 63 women's team conference championships and producing multiple Olympians, providing meaningful athletic and educational opportunities, advancing leadership development, and reinforcing the values of discipline, teamwork, and achievement for student-athletes in Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Boise State's student-athletes have demonstrated academic success, recently achieving a record cumulative grade point average and the highest graduation success rate in department history, illustrating the broad educational benefits of collegiate athletics; and

WHEREAS, for every \$1.00 invested in Boise State University athletics, the State of Idaho receives an estimated \$2.00 in return through added economic activity, tax revenues, and public sector savings, underscoring the department's high return on public and private investment; and

WHEREAS, Boise State University athletics home competitions drew more than 485,000 attendees during fiscal year 2025, leading attendance among its conference peers and

enhancing tourism, hospitality, and small business revenues throughout Idaho; and

WHEREAS, Boise State University athletics consistently generates national media exposure, including hundreds of millions of social media impressions and millions of viewers on television, which raises Idaho's profile and enhances the state's brand; and

WHEREAS, the success and visibility of Boise State University athletics, especially its iconic football program with its unique blue turf and national reputation, serve as an important cultural and community symbol, commonly described as the "front porch of Idaho," uniting residents, students, and alumni across the state; and

WHEREAS, Power Two and Power Four conference institutions are making significant decisions without Boise State University and its peers having equal input on outcomes. Those decisions have a tremendous impact on Boise State University and others regardless of whether they are in the best interests of the institution; and

WHEREAS, in the evolving collegiate athletics landscape shaped by name, image, and likeness (NIL), revenue sharing, and shifting conference dynamics, there is a compelling need for federal policy and funding frameworks to ensure fair competition, sustainable athletic programs, and continued economic and community benefits for states like Idaho; and

WHEREAS, the President's Saving College Sports Executive Order correctly states that "a national solution is urgently needed to prevent this situation from deteriorating beyond repair and to protect non-revenue sports, including many women's sports, that comprise the backbone of intercollegiate athletics, drive American superiority at the Olympics and other international competitions, and catalyze hundreds of thousands of student-athletes to fuel American success in myriad ways."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-eighth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the Legislature calls on the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States to take immediate federal action to restore clarity, consistency, and stability to the governance of intercollegiate athletics, recognizing that inaction maintains the status quo for regulatory uncertainty, competitive imbalance, and financial risk for public universities and the states they serve.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress is specifically urged to enact targeted, limited legislation that: (i) Establishes a single, uniform national framework for NIL and revenue sharing that preempts conflicting state laws and allows universities to operate under clear, predictable rules rather than through an ever-expanding patchwork of mandates and litigation; (ii) Defines student-athlete employment status and eligibility; (iii) Preserves women's sports and Olympic sports by ensuring that federal action does not unintentionally force universities to eliminate programs, reduce opportunities, or divert resources from educational priorities; (iv) Restores certainty and predictability for universities, student-athletes, and local economies; (v) Provides a pathway for FBS institutions to build their athletic brands and expand economic activity in their communities; and (vi) Provides a level playing field for institutions to compete at the highest level, driven not by conference affiliation, but by objective metrics such as competitive success, brand awareness, and financial support for athletic programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Legislature calls on Congress to act without delay because the absence of federal action will result in program reductions, escalating costs, and competitive disparities that threaten the future of collegiate athletics, and now is the critical moment for Congress

to preserve athletic opportunity, protect taxpayers' investments, and sustain the economic and civic benefits of college sports for future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate be, and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward a copy of this Memorial to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress and to the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States.

[SCR 121](#), [SJM 112](#), [SJM 113](#), and [SJM 114](#) 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 25, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that [S 1336](#) and [S 1337](#) have been correctly printed.

LAKEY, Chairman

[S 1336](#) was referred to the Education Committee.

[S 1337](#) was referred to the Resources and Environment Committee.

February 24, 2026

The TRANSPORTATION Committee reports out [H 576](#), [H 577](#), and [S 1325](#) with the recommendation that they do pass.

OKUNIEWICZ, Chairman

[H 576](#), [H 577](#), and [S 1325](#) were filed for second reading.

February 24, 2026

The TRANSPORTATION Committee reports out [S 1224](#) with the recommendation that it be referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business for amendment.

OKUNIEWICZ, Chairman

There being no objection, [S 1224](#) was referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business, General Calendar.

February 24, 2026

The COMMERCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES Committee reports out [S 1273](#), [S 1274](#), [S 1275](#), and [S 1319](#) with the recommendation that they do pass.

FOREMAN, Chairman

[S 1273](#), [S 1274](#), [S 1275](#), and [S 1319](#) were filed for second reading.

February 24, 2026

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

Trent Nate to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board, term to expire April 10, 2029.

FOREMAN, 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 24, 2026

The EDUCATION Committee reports out [H 608](#), [H 635](#), and [H 636](#) with the recommendation that they do pass.

LENT, Chairman

[H 608](#), [H 635](#), and [H 636](#) were filed for second reading.

February 24, 2026

The HEALTH AND WELFARE Committee reports out [S 1313](#) with the recommendation that it do pass.

VANORDEN, Chair

[S 1313](#) was filed for second reading.

February 25, 2026

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee reports out [H 539](#), [HCR 28](#), [S 1296](#), [S 1320](#), [S 1321](#), and [S 1322](#) with the recommendation that they do pass.

GUTHRIE, Chairman

[H 539](#), [S 1296](#), [S 1320](#), [S 1321](#), and [S 1322](#) were filed for second reading.

[HCR 28](#) 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 Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Eighth Order of Business.

Messages from the Governor

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bedke
President of the Senate
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Irving Littman 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.

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bedke
President of the Senate
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Judge Rudolph "Rick" Carnaroli of Pocatello, Idaho, was appointed to the Idaho Judicial

Council to serve a term commencing January 7, 2026, and expiring January 7, 2032.

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 Judiciary and Rules Committee.

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bedke
President of the Senate
Idaho State Senate

Dear Mr. President:

I have the honor to inform you that Terry Kirkham of Idaho Falls, Idaho, was appointed to the Commission of Pardons and Parole to serve a term commencing March 18, 2026, and expiring January 1, 2028.

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 Judiciary and Rules Committee.

The Senate advanced to the Ninth Order of Business.

Messages from the House

February 24, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith [H 630](#), [H 631](#), [H 548](#), [H 599](#), [H 731](#), [H 603](#), [H 689](#), [H 690](#), [H 698](#), [H 642](#), [H 563](#), and [H 623](#), which have passed the House.

VORE, Acting Chief Clerk

[H 630](#), [H 631](#), [H 548](#), [H 599](#), [H 731](#), [H 603](#), [H 689](#), [H 690](#), [H 698](#), [H 642](#), [H 563](#), and [H 623](#) were filed for first reading.

February 24, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith Enrolled [H 504](#) for the signature of the President.

VORE, Acting Chief Clerk

The President signed Enrolled [H 504](#) and ordered it returned to the House.

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 1338

**BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AN ACT**

RELATING TO THE STATE TREASURER; AMENDING SECTION 67-1210, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT IDLE MONEYS MAY BE INVESTED IN PHYSICAL GOLD AND SILVER IN CERTAIN INSTANCES, TO PROVIDE FOR STORAGE OF PHYSICAL GOLD AND SILVER, AND TO PROVIDE FOR A MAXIMUM ALLOWED INVESTMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

S 1339

**BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AN ACT**

RELATING TO EDUCATION; REPEALING SECTION 33-320, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND TRAINING; AMENDING CHAPTER 3, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-320, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE PLANS AND TRAINING; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

S 1340

**BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AN ACT**

RELATING TO RULES OF THE ROAD; AMENDING SECTION 49-630, IDAHO CODE, TO REQUIRE VEHICLES TO BE DRIVEN ON THE RIGHT-HAND LANE ON MULTILANE HIGHWAYS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 49-655, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A PENALTY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

S 1341

**BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AN ACT**

RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE; AMENDING TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A CHAPTER HEADING; AMENDING CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PART 1, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CHAPTER, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO PROHIBIT FOREIGN CONTRIBUTIONS, FOREIGN INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES, AND FOREIGN ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR COMMERCIAL RECORDKEEPING, TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN REPORTS BE CERTIFIED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES, AND TO PROVIDE THAT POLLS CONCERNING A CANDIDATE OR MEASURE MUST IDENTIFY THE PERSON OR ENTITY PAYING FOR THE POLL; AMENDING CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PART 2, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING CANDIDATES AND A CAMPAIGN FINANCE ACCOUNT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A POLITICAL TREASURER FOR CANDIDATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DUTIES OF A POLITICAL TREASURER FOR CANDIDATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE

IDENTIFICATION OF THE SOURCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES BY CANDIDATES, TO PROVIDE FOR REPORTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO AND EXPENDITURES BY CANDIDATES, TO PROVIDE LIMITATIONS ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES, TO PROHIBIT CANDIDATE COORDINATION TO BENEFIT FROM AN INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE RETIRING OF DEBT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF CONTRIBUTED AMOUNTS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF SYNTHETIC MEDIA; AMENDING CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PART 3, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A POLITICAL TREASURER FOR POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DUTIES OF A POLITICAL TREASURER FOR POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES, TO PROVIDE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OBTAINED BY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF CONTRIBUTED AMOUNTS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES, TO PROVIDE FOR REPORTS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO AND EXPENDITURES BY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES, TO PROHIBIT POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE COORDINATION WITH A CANDIDATE, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN REPORTS FOR ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR REPORTS OF INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES BY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR REPORTS OF MEASURE EXPENDITURES BY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES; AMENDING CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PART 4, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE INTENT, TO PROVIDE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS, REPORTS, AND LIMITS FOR POLITICAL PARTY COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN REPORTS FOR ELECTIONEERING COMMUNICATIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR MEASURE EXPENDITURES; AMENDING CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW PART 5, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 74, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DUTIES OF COUNTY CLERKS AND PROSECUTORS, TO PROVIDE FOR VIOLATIONS AND FINES, TO PROVIDE FOR LATE FILINGS AND FEES, TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER VIOLATIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL FINES AND LATE FEES, TO PROVIDE FOR PROSECUTION, LIMITATIONS, AND VENUE, TO PROVIDE FOR INJUNCTIONS, TO PROVIDE SEVERABILITY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION; AMENDING CHAPTER 18, TITLE 34, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 34-1807A, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISCLOSURE OF PAYMENTS MADE TO SIGNATURE GATHERERS; AMENDING SECTION 19-5904, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A CORRECT CODE REFERENCE; AMENDING SECTION 19-6004, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A CORRECT CODE REFERENCE; AMENDING SECTION 44-2602, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE CORRECT CODE REFERENCES; AMENDING SECTION 44-2605, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE CORRECT CODE REFERENCES; AMENDING SECTION 50-2006, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A CORRECT CODE REFERENCE; AMENDING SECTION 67-5282, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A CORRECT CODE REFERENCE; AMENDING

SECTION 72-1503, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE A CORRECT CODE REFERENCE; REPEALING CHAPTER 66, TITLE 67, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO ELECTION CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES; PROVIDING APPLICABILITY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

[S 1338](#), [S 1339](#), [S 1340](#), and [S 1341](#) were introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing.

[H 630](#) and [H 631](#), by Agricultural Affairs Committee, were introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Agricultural Affairs Committee.

[H 548](#), by State Affairs Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee.

[H 599](#), by Education Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Education Committee.

[H 731](#), by Revenue and Taxation Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Local Government and Taxation Committee.

[H 603](#), by Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the State Affairs Committee.

[H 689](#) and [H 690](#), by Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee, were introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee.

[H 698](#), by Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the State Affairs Committee.

[H 642](#), by Commerce and Human Resources Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Commerce and Human Resources Committee.

[H 563](#), by Business Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Commerce and Human Resources Committee.

[H 623](#), by Education Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Education Committee.

The Senate advanced to the Twelfth Order of Business.

Second Reading of Bills

[S 1300](#) and [S 1301](#), by State Affairs Committee, were read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1331](#) and [S 1332](#), by Finance Committee, were read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[H 587](#), by Resources and Conservation Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1308](#), [S 1309](#), and [S 1311](#), by Judiciary and Rules Committee, were read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1317](#), by Education Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[H 528](#) and [H 558](#), by Health and Welfare Committee, were read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[H 500](#), by Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1272](#), by Transportation Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[S 1283](#), by Agricultural Affairs Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

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

General Calendar

The President declared the Senate resolved into the Committee of the Whole and called Senator Harris to the Chair to preside during the sitting of the Committee of the Whole.

Following the adjournment of the Committee of the Whole, the President called the Senate to order.

Report of the Committee of the Whole

Senator Harris, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, reported out [S 1241](#), [S 1270](#), [S 1271](#), and [S 1285](#), without recommendation, amended as follows:

SENATE AMENDMENT TO S 1241 AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1

On page 1 of the printed bill, in line 12, delete "those" and insert: "the person or enterprise that"; in line 15, delete "or"; also in line 15, delete "by creating" and insert: "or creates"; in line 19, delete ", including but not limited to" and insert: ". Such term includes"; in line 20, delete "including horse" and insert "equine"; also in line 20, delete "carriage riding" and insert: "carriage driving"; in line 21, following "ranching," insert: "livestock guardianship or herding,,"; also in line 21, delete "service" and insert: "other service or activity that has traditionally involved the utilization of working animals.,"; and delete lines 22 and 23, and insert:

"(3) This section shall not:

- (a) Apply to cockfighting or dogfighting as provided for in sections 25-3506 and 25-3507, Idaho Code; or
- (b) Prevent the enactment and enforcement of:
 - (i) A zoning ordinance properly adopted pursuant to chapter 65, title 67, Idaho Code;
 - (ii) An animal care law or regulation adopted pursuant to this chapter; or
 - (iii) An ordinance concerning public health or public safety properly adopted pursuant to Idaho Code."

SENATE AMENDMENT TO S 1270 AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1

On page 1 of the printed bill, in line 13, delete "ALTERNATIVE" and insert: "CELL-CULTIVATED"; delete lines 14 through 21, and insert:

"37-1601. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter, "cell-cultivated animal protein" means any animal cell-based food product produced or derived from culturing animal cells outside of the animal's body, which may be referred to as "lab-grown meat," "cultivated meat," "cell-cultured meat," or "fake meat."";

in line 22, delete "ALTERNATIVE" and insert: "CELL-CULTIVATED"; in line 23, delete "alternative" and insert: "cell-cultivated"; delete lines 25 and 26, and insert: ""lab-grown," "cell-cultivated," or "cell-cultured.""; in line 31, delete "alternative" and insert: "cell-cultivated"; and delete lines 34 through 37, and insert:

"(4) A cell-cultivated animal protein product that is not derived from traditional livestock production or wild game harvest shall not be labeled, advertised, or marketed using terms commonly associated with specific meat cuts, including but

not limited to "steak," "roast," "tri-tip," "loin," or "brisket," unless otherwise authorized by the United States department of agriculture."

On page 2, delete lines 8 and 9, and insert:

"(2) No civil penalty shall be assessed for a violation that is the result of a good-faith error, provided the violation is promptly corrected upon notice by the department.

(3) Enforcement under this section shall be directed to the manufacturer, producer, or person who labels or markets the cell-cultivated animal protein product, and not to a retailer or food establishment that does not alter the product labeling."; and in line 10, delete "(3)" and insert: "(4)".

CORRECTION TO TITLE

On page 1, in line 2, delete "ALTERNATIVE" and insert "CELL-CULTIVATED"; and in line 5, delete "ALTERNATIVE" and insert "CELL-CULTIVATED".

SENATE AMENDMENT TO S 1271

AMENDMENT TO THE BILL

On page 1 of the printed bill, delete lines 7 through 40; and on page 2, delete lines 1 through 37, and insert:

"SECTION 1. That Title 52, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chapter 5, Title 52, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

CHAPTER 5

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY NUISANCES

52-501. RODENTS OF UNUSUAL SIZE – NUISANCES. (1) The legislature finds that the state of Idaho, in particular its more metropolitan areas, has seen a dramatic increase in the presence of rats, which is especially concerning given their lack of historic presence in Idaho and their ability to easily transport diseases that are transmittable to humans and to cause economic damage to agriculture and property.

(2) The Norway rat and the roof rat (rats) are hereby declared to be:

- (a) A public health and safety nuisance, pursuant to the provisions of this section;
- (b) An invasive species for the purposes of chapter 19, title 22, Idaho Code;
- (c) An agricultural pest for the purposes of chapter 26, title 25, Idaho Code; and
- (d) A vermin and public health and welfare pest for the purposes of chapter 28, title 39, Idaho Code.

(3) The director of the department of agriculture shall:

(a) Coordinate efforts, to the maximum extent possible, with:

- (i) The boards of county commissioners within Idaho;
- (ii) Control districts, the boards thereof, and the boards of county commissioners operating pursuant to chapter 26, title 25, Idaho Code;
- (iii) Abatement districts, the boards thereof, and the boards of county commissioners operating pursuant to chapter 28, title 39, Idaho Code;
- (iv) Public health districts and the boards thereof, pursuant to chapter 4, title 39, Idaho Code;
- (v) Any other state agency, department, or political subdivision that the director determines necessary to enact the provisions of this section; and
- (vi) Any other entity, public or private, that the director determines necessary to coordinate or contract with to enact the provisions of this section, including to promote public education materials;

(b) Develop and implement a coordinated plan to engage the public, political subdivisions, and other relevant stakeholders to determine the extent and scope of rats in Idaho; and

(c) Develop and distribute public education material that promotes ongoing reporting and best practices to prevent and eradicate rats.

(4) The finding of a rat in Idaho is encouraged to be promptly reported to the department of agriculture.

(a) The department shall collect and compile all such reports regarding the presence of rats in order to determine:

- (i) The movement and location of the rats;
- (ii) Where abatement is necessary;
- (iii) The type of abatement that is necessary; and
- (iv) Where the department may need assistance to abate the rats.

(b) Such reports and educational materials shall be made publicly available on the department's website.

(5) The department shall use such reports to create an abatement plan that includes ongoing public education material distribution.

(a) The abatement plan shall:

- (i) Summarize the extent and scope of rats in Idaho;
- (ii) Describe the actions already taken and that are currently in progress to address the rats;
- (iii) Describe any planned future actions to address the rats;
- (iv) Provide information on how to report the presence of rats to the department; and
- (v) Provide accessible ways to prevent or eliminate rats within the community and household.

(b) The abatement plan shall be made publicly available on the department's website.

(c) The department shall review and update, if necessary, the abatement plan at least every three (3) years.

(d) The director shall present and provide the abatement plan to the following legislative bodies for review during the 2027 legislative session and any legislative session following a revision of the plan:

- (i) The house and senate agricultural affairs committees;
- (ii) The joint finance-appropriations committee; and
- (iii) The interim committee on natural resources, if so requested.

(e) If the director determines that abatement actions should be undertaken, the anticipated costs to abate the rats shall be included in the director's report. Such moneys may be requested by the director and appropriated by the legislature.

(6) State agencies and political subdivisions shall make themselves available, subject to available personnel, equipment, and funding, to assist the department in enacting the provisions of this section. Nothing in this section shall require mandatory participation or the expenditure of local funds.

(7) This section shall be known and may be cited as "The Idaho Rodents of Unusual Size Act.".

CORRECTION TO TITLE

On page 1, delete lines 2 through 5, and insert: "RELATING TO ABATEMENT OF RATS; AMENDING TITLE 52, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 5, TITLE 52, IDAHO CODE, TO DECLARE CERTAIN RATS A PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY NUISANCE AND TO REQUIRE THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT

AND SCOPE OF SUCH RATS IN IDAHO AND WHETHER ABATEMENT IS NECESSARY; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY."

SENATE AMENDMENT TO S 1285

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1

On page 1 of the printed bill, in line 37, delete "HOME" and insert: "NONPUBLIC"; in line 39, delete "twenty-one"; and delete lines 40 and 41, and insert: "eighteen (18) years of age or older and who has earned a high school diploma from a nonpublic school as possessing the equivalent of:".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 2

On page 2, in line 19, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3

On page 2, in line 41, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4

On page 3, in line 21, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 5

On page 4, in line 7, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 6

On page 4, in line 44, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 7

On page 8, in line 28, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 8

On page 9, in line 5, delete "an Idaho"; and in line 6, delete "home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 9

On page 9, in line 36, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 10

On page 10, in line 12, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 11

On page 10, in line 44, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 12

On page 11, in line 20, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 13

On page 11, in line 45, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 14

On page 12, in line 26, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 15

On page 12, in line 41, delete "an Idaho"; and in line 42, delete "home" and insert: "a nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 16

On page 15, in line 8, delete "home" and insert: "nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 17

On page 16, in line 26, delete "an Idaho home" and insert: "a nonpublic";.

On page 18, in line 11, delete "home" and insert: "nonpublic".

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 18

On page 18, in line 16, delete "July 1, 2026" and insert: "its passage and approval".

CORRECTION TO TITLE

On page 1, in line 4, delete "HOME" and insert: "NONPUBLIC"; in line 6, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 8, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 10, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 12, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 13, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 15, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 16, delete "AN"; in line 17, delete "IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 18, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 19, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 20, delete "AN"; in line 21, delete "IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 22, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 24, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 26, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 28, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; in line 29, delete "AN IDAHO HOME" and insert: "A NONPUBLIC"; and delete lines 31 and 32, and insert: "NONPUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY."

The Committee also has [H 494](#) under consideration, reports progress, and begs leave to sit again.

HARRIS, Chairman

On motion by Senator Harris, seconded by Senator Wintrow, the report was adopted by voice vote.

[S 1241](#), as amended, [S 1270](#), as amended, [S 1271](#), as amended, and [S 1285](#), as amended, were referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for engrossing and the amendments thereto were referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing.

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

Third Reading of Bills

On request by Senator Harris, granted by unanimous consent, [H 613](#), [H 526](#), and [S 1297](#) were referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business, General Calendar.

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 12:02 p.m. until the hour of 11 a.m., Thursday, February 26, 2026.

SCOTT BEDKE, President

Attest: JENNIFER NOVAK, Secretary