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SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

FIFTY-THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026

Senate Chamber

President Bedke called the Senate to order at 11 a.m.

Roll call showed all members present except Senators Den Hartog, Shippy, and Woodward, absent and formally excused by the Chair.

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Doug Armstrong.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Antoine Taylor, 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 March 4, 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.

The Senate advanced to the Fourth Order of Business.

Reading of Communications

March 4, 2026

Dear President Pro Tempore,

I have the honor to inform you that pursuant to Title 67-412, I have designated Steve Keyser of Boise, Idaho, 83713, as a qualified substitute for Legislative District 15, Ada County, State of Idaho.

This appointment is effective Thursday afternoon of March 5, 2026, and will continue until I am able to resume the duties of my office.

Sincerely,
/s/ Senator Codi Galloway

The President announced that the Oath of Office would be administered to the designated Acting Senator upon their arrival on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

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

On request by Senator Harris, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Sixth Order of Business.

Reports of Standing Committees

March 5, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that [SR 118](#), [SCR 124](#), [SR 119](#), [S 1363](#), [S 1364](#), [S 1365](#), [S 1366](#), [S 1367](#), [S 1368](#), [S 1369](#), [S 1370](#), [S 1371](#), and [S 1372](#) have been correctly printed.

LAKEY, Chairman

[SR 118](#), [SCR 124](#), and [SR 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 1363](#) was referred to the Finance Committee.

[S 1364](#), [S 1365](#), and [S 1366](#) were referred to the State Affairs Committee.

[S 1367](#) was referred to the Commerce and Human Resources Committee.

[S 1368](#) was referred to the State Affairs Committee.

[S 1369](#) was referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee.

[S 1370](#) was referred to the State Affairs Committee.

[S 1371](#) and [S 1372](#) were referred to the Education Committee.

March 5, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that Senate amendments to [S 1224](#), [S 1326](#), and [S 1340](#) have been correctly printed.

LAKEY, Chairman

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

March 5, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that [S 1224](#), as amended, [S 1326](#), as amended, and [S 1340](#), as amended, have been correctly engrossed.

LAKEY, Chairman

[S 1224](#), as amended, [S 1326](#), as amended, and [S 1340](#), as amended, were filed for first reading.

March 4, 2026

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION Committee reports out [S 1345](#) and [S 1353](#) with the recommendation that they do pass.

RICKS, Chairman

[S 1345](#) and [S 1353](#) were filed for second reading.

March 4, 2026

The EDUCATION Committee reports out [H 599](#) with the recommendation that it do pass.

LENT, Chairman

[H 599](#) was filed for second reading.

March 4, 2026

The EDUCATION Committee reports out [H 728](#) with the recommendation that it be referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business for amendment.

LENT, Chairman

There being no objection, [H 728](#) was referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business, General Calendar.

March 4, 2026

The HEALTH AND WELFARE Committee reports out [S 1346](#) with the recommendation that it be referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business for amendment.

VANORDEN, Chair

There being no objection, [S 1346](#) was referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business, General Calendar.

On request by Senator Harris, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Ninth Order of Business.

Messages from the House

March 4, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith [HCR 31](#), which has passed the House.

VORE, Acting Chief Clerk

[HCR 31](#) was filed for first reading.

March 4, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith Enrolled [H 608](#) for the signature of the President.

VORE, Acting Chief Clerk

The President signed Enrolled [H 608](#) and ordered it returned to the House.

The Senate advanced to the Tenth Order of Business.

Motions and Resolutions

The President announced that [SJM 110](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the memorial be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Nichols, seconded by Senator Ruchti, [SJM 110](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the memorial ordered transmitted to the House.

The President announced that [SJM 111](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the memorial be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Bernt, seconded by Senator Semmelroth, [SJM 111](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the memorial ordered transmitted to the House.

On request by Senator Harris, granted by unanimous consent, [SCR 121](#) retained its place on the calendar for one legislative day.

The President announced that [SJM 113](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the memorial be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Hart, seconded by Senator Foreman, [SJM 113](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the memorial ordered transmitted to the House.

The President announced that [SR 116](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Adams, seconded by Senator Rabe, [SR 116](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the resolution ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

On request by Senator Harris, 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 1373

BY FINANCE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; APPROPRIATING MONEYS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, THE COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS, THE IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES, THE IDAHO STATE LOTTERY, THE STATE APPELLATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, THE DIVISION OF VETERANS SERVICES, THE OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER, THE DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES, THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS, THE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES OMBUDSMAN, THE COMMISSION OF PARDONS AND PAROLE, AND THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027; LIMITING THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE WATERCRAFT INSPECTION PROGRAM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; PROVIDING A CASH TRANSFER TO THE DEPREDATION OF LIVESTOCK AND PREVENTION FUND; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRUSTEE AND BENEFIT PAYMENTS DISTRIBUTION FOR THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION; PROVIDING REAPPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE IDAHO BROADBAND FUND; PROVIDING REAPPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE ARPA CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND; PROVIDING REAPPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE FEDERAL GRANT FUND; DIRECTING THE USE OF BROADBAND GRANTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; PROVIDING FOR CONTINUOUS APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE; DIRECTING THE USE OF PERSONNEL COSTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE; PROVIDING CONTINUOUS APPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FOR THE IDAHO STATE LOTTERY; PROVIDING REAPPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR CAPITAL APPEALS; PROVIDING REAPPROPRIATION AUTHORITY FOR NONCAPITAL APPEALS; DIRECTING EXPENSES PAID FOR THE USE OF COUNTY FACILITIES FOR INDIGENT PUBLIC DEFENSE; PROVIDING AN

EXEMPTION FROM PROGRAM TRANSFER LIMITATIONS FOR THE DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES; PROVIDING A CONTINUOUS APPROPRIATION FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FOR THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS; PROVIDING FOR CONDITIONS, LIMITATIONS, AND RESTRICTIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

S 1373 was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing.

S 1224, as amended, by Transportation Committee, was read the first time at length and filed for second reading.

S 1326, as amended, and S 1340, as amended, by State Affairs Committee, were read the first time at length and filed for second reading.

HCR 31, by Ways and Means Committee, was introduced, read at length, and referred to the State Affairs Committee.

The Senate advanced to the Twelfth Order of Business.

Second Reading of Bills

H 543, by Commerce and Human Resources Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

H 563, by Business Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

H 652, by Resources and Conservation Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

S 1362, by Finance Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

H 520, H 541, and H 581, by Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee, were read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

S 1260, by Judiciary and Rules 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

On request by Senator Harris, granted by unanimous consent, H 624 was placed before the Senate for consideration at this time.

H 624 was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Lent 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 (Bjerke), Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Hart, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 32.

NAYS—None.

Absent and excused—Den Hartog, Shippy, Woodward. Total - 3.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President declared H 624 passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered returned to the House.

S 1305, having been held, was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator VanOrden 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 (Bjerke), Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Hart, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 32.

NAYS—None.

Absent and excused—Den Hartog, Shippy, Woodward. Total - 3.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President declared S 1305 passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered transmitted to the House.

S 1271, as amended, was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Nichols 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 (Bjerke), Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Carlson, Cook, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Hart, Keyser, Lakey, Lenney, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Ricks, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Total - 28.

NAYS—Kohl, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 3.

Absent and excused—Den Hartog, Rabe, Shippy, Woodward. Total - 4.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President declared S 1271, as amended, passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered transmitted to the House.

On request by Senator Harris, granted by unanimous consent, the Senate advanced to the Fifteenth Order of Business.

Miscellaneous Business

On motion by Senator Harris, seconded by Senator Wintrow, by voice vote, the Senate adjourned at 12:10 p.m. until the hour of 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 6, 2026.

SCOTT BEDKE, President

Attest: JENNIFER NOVAK, Secretary