

# SENATE JOURNAL OF THE IDAHO LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
SIXTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-NINTH LEGISLATIVE DAY  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

Senate Chamber

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

Roll call showed all members present except President Pro Tempore Anthon and Senator Shippy, absent and formally excused by the Chair; and Senator Blaylock, absent and excused.

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Doug Armstrong.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Drew Brown, 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 10, 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

#### SJM 115 BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE A JOINT MEMORIAL

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, THE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE STATE OF IDAHO IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

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, Idaho has a plethora of ecosystems, such as Harriman State Park and Island Park, which lie within an 11,000-acre wildlife refuge in the greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Camas National Wildlife Refuge southwest of Harriman, Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge on Idaho's eastern border, and Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge in north Idaho, that provide vital habitat for a variety of species, of which migratory birds are particularly important; and

WHEREAS, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA) was implemented to prevent the extinction of birds due to unsustainable feather-trading and hunting practices and makes it illegal to "take," which includes harassing, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, trading, buying, and transporting, among other activities, a protected migratory bird species, of which there are over 1,000, without prior authorization by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and

WHEREAS, one such protected migratory bird species is the pelican, which is also classified as a predator species as they feast on fish; and

WHEREAS, a once-endangered species, the pelican has made a remarkable return and has established a stronghold in Idaho's abundant wetland refuge ecosystems such that its population is beginning to impact the overall use and health of the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's streams and rivers are renowned by fishermen across the nation, particularly the Henry's Fork River that meanders for eight miles through Harriman State Park, attracting fly-fishers from all four corners of the state and nation thereby generating revenues for the local community and business owners; and

WHEREAS, predatory birds, such as pelicans, have been documented to harvest more fish in Idaho than fisherman; and

WHEREAS, pelicans have been documented to consume over three pounds of fish per day; and

WHEREAS, over 30% of the electronic fish tags that originated in Idaho's renowned Silver Creek were documented by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) in pelican feces at the Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge pelican rookeries; and

WHEREAS, millions of sportsmen's dollars are spent by IDFG to create, promote, and enhance Idaho's fishing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the pelican, a protected migratory bird under the MBTA, is actively managed and bred by the USFWS and cannot be taken, harassed, killed, or otherwise disturbed without prior authorization by the USFWS; and

WHEREAS, the rigorous protections of the MBTA and other environmental acts have successfully ensured this predatory bird's survival but are now hindering the survival of other species and conflicting with areas' traditional use due to the birds' overpopulation.

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 supports and urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to curtail, or allow curtailment of, the number of pelicans within Idaho.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports and urges the federal government to compensate the State of Idaho for loss of its resources due to the pelican's overpopulation.

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 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress, the congressional delegation representing the State of Idaho in the Congress of the United States, and the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

#### SR 120 BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE A SENATE RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE SENATE, HONORING AND COMMEMORATING STATE POLICE K9 KIMBER FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE, DEDICATION, AND

UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO PROTECTING THE PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE OF IDAHO.

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

WHEREAS, under the dedicated leadership and guidance of her original handler, State Police Trp. Rob Heise, K9 Kimber progressed from having no formal training to achieving full certification in November 2022, demonstrating exceptional aptitude, discipline, and commitment; and

WHEREAS, in early 2024, K9 Kimber transitioned to her new handler, State Police Trp. Jayce Miller, continuing her service with professionalism, reliability, and steadfast devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, throughout more than three years of service, K9 Kimber has played a vital role in enhancing the safety and security of state employees, members of the Idaho Legislature, and citizens of this great state; and

WHEREAS, K9 Kimber's loyalty, courage, and service reflect the highest standards of law enforcement and exemplify the valued partnership between handler and K9 officer.

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 recognizes and commends K9 Kimber for her outstanding service, dedication, and unwavering commitment to protecting the people and institutions of the State of Idaho and extends sincere appreciation for her continued service.

[SJM 115](#) and [SR 120](#) 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

March 11, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that [S 1379](#), [S 1380](#), [S 1381](#), [S 1382](#), [S 1383](#), [S 1384](#), and [S 1385](#) have been correctly printed.

LAKEY, Chairman

[S 1379](#) was referred to the Transportation Committee.

[S 1380](#), [S 1381](#), [S 1382](#), [S 1383](#), [S 1384](#), and [S 1385](#) were referred to the Finance Committee.

March 11, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that [S 1314](#) has been correctly enrolled.

LAKEY, Chairman

The President signed Enrolled [S 1314](#) and ordered it transmitted to the House for the signature of the Speaker.

March 11, 2026

The JUDICIARY AND RULES Committee reports that Enrolled [S 1244](#), [S 1265](#), and [S 1331](#) were delivered to the Office of the Governor at 8:15 a.m., March 11, 2026.

LAKEY, Chairman

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

March 10, 2026

The EDUCATION Committee reports out [H 623](#) with the recommendation that it do pass.

LENT, Chairman

[H 623](#) was filed for second reading.

March 10, 2026

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION Committee reports out [H 751](#) and [S 1347](#) with the recommendation that they do pass.

RICKS, Chairman

[H 751](#) and [S 1347](#) were filed for second reading.

March 10, 2026

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND TAXATION Committee reports out [S 1352](#) with the recommendation that it be referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business for amendment.

RICKS, Chairman

There being no objection, [S 1352](#) was referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business, General Calendar.

March 11, 2026

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee reports out [H 686](#) and [H 727](#) with the recommendation that they do pass.

GUTHRIE, Chairman

[H 686](#) and [H 727](#) were filed for second reading.

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

### Messages from the House

Senator Blaylock was recorded present at this order of business.

March 10, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith [H 716](#), [H 648](#), [HJM 17](#), [HCR 33](#), [H 846](#), [H 825](#), [H 815](#), [H 717](#), as amended, [H 668](#), as amended, [H 750](#), as amended, [H 847](#), [H 848](#), [H 849](#), and [H 681](#), which have passed the House.

MCGINNIS, Chief Clerk

[H 716](#), [H 648](#), [HJM 17](#), [HCR 33](#), [H 846](#), [H 825](#), [H 815](#), [H 717](#), as amended, [H 668](#), as amended, [H 750](#), as amended, [H 847](#), [H 848](#), [H 849](#), and [H 681](#) were filed for first reading.

March 10, 2026

Dear Mr. President:

I transmit herewith Enrolled [H 583](#) and [H 528](#) for the signature of the President.

MCGINNIS, Chief Clerk

The President signed Enrolled [H 583](#) and [H 528](#) and ordered them returned to the House.

The Senate advanced to the Tenth Order of Business.

### Motions and Resolutions

The President announced that [SCR 121](#), having been held, was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Lent, seconded by Senator Semmelroth, [SCR 121](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the resolution ordered transmitted to the House.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, [SR 117](#) and [SCR 122](#) retained their place on the calendar for one legislative day.

The President announced that [SCR 123](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Burtenshaw, seconded by Senator Semmelroth, [SCR 123](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the resolution ordered transmitted to the House.

The President announced that [SR 118](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Wintrow, seconded by Senator Den Hartog, [SR 118](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the resolution ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

The President announced that [SCR 124](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Bernt, seconded by Senator Rucht, [SCR 124](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the resolution ordered transmitted to the House.

The President announced that [SR 119](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the resolution be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Zito, seconded by Senator Zuiderveld, [SR 119](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the resolution ordered filed in the office of the Secretary of the Senate.

The President announced that [SJM 114](#) was before the Senate for final consideration, the question being, "Shall the memorial be adopted?"

On motion by Senator Adams, seconded by Senator Ward-Engelking, [SJM 114](#) was adopted by voice vote, title was approved, and the memorial ordered transmitted 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 1386

#### BY FINANCE COMMITTEE

#### AN ACT

RELATING TO THE APPROPRIATION TO THE COMMISSION OF PARDONS AND PAROLE;

APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONEYS TO THE COMMISSION OF PARDONS AND PAROLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027; REDUCING THE APPROPRIATION TO THE COMMISSION OF PARDONS AND PAROLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027; APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL MONEYS TO THE COMMISSION OF PARDONS AND PAROLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; REDUCING THE APPROPRIATION TO THE COMMISSION OF PARDONS AND PAROLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.

[S 1386](#) was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee for printing.

[H 716](#), by Transportation and Defense Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Transportation Committee.

[H 648](#), by Business Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Commerce and Human Resources Committee.

[HJM 17](#) and [HCR 33](#), by State Affairs Committee, were introduced, read at length, and referred to the State Affairs Committee.

[H 846](#), by Education Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Education Committee.

[H 825](#), by Ways and Means Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Transportation Committee.

[H 815](#), by Education Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Education Committee.

[H 717](#), as amended, by Transportation and Defense Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Transportation Committee.

[H 668](#), as amended, by Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee.

[H 750](#), as amended, by Ways and Means Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Commerce and Human Resources Committee.

[H 847](#) and [H 848](#), by Appropriations Committee, were introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Finance Committee.

[H 849](#), by Education Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Education Committee.

[H 681](#), by Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee, was introduced, read the first time at length, and referred to the Judiciary and Rules Committee.

The Senate advanced to the Twelfth Order of Business.

### Second Reading of Bills

[H 540](#), by Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[H 556](#), by Local Government Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[H 688](#), by Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[H 645](#), by Business Committee, was read the second time at length and filed for third reading.

[H 738](#), by State Affairs 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 Guthrie, granted by unanimous consent, [S 1359](#) was referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business, General Calendar.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, [S 1362](#), having been held, retained its place on the Third Reading Calendar for one legislative day.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, [S 1353](#), having been held, and [S 1348](#) were referred to the Fourteenth Order of Business, General Calendar.

[S 1350](#) was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Ricks arose as sponsor of the bill and opened the debate. The question being, "Shall the bill pass?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Adams, Bernt, Bjerke (Bjerke), Burtenshaw, Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Guthrie, Harris, Hart, Lakey, Lent, Rabe, Ricks, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Taylor, Toews, VanOrden, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow, Woodward. Total - 24.

NAYS—Blaylock, Coho (Lenney), Keyser, Kohl, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Rundhaug (Carlson), Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 9.

Absent and excused—Anthon, Shippy. Total - 2.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President declared [S 1350](#) passed, title was approved, and the bill ordered transmitted to the House.

On request by Senator Den Hartog, granted by unanimous consent, [S 1351](#) retained its place on the Third Reading Calendar for one legislative day.

[S 1373](#) was read the third time at length, section by section, and placed before the Senate for final consideration. Senator Hart arose as sponsor of the bill and opened the debate. The question being, "Shall the bill pass?"

Roll call resulted as follows:

AYES—Adams, Bernt, Bjerke (Bjerke), Blaylock, Burtenshaw, Coho (Lenney), Cook, Den Hartog, Foreman, Galloway, Grow, Harris, Hart, Keyser, Kohl, Lakey, Lent, Nichols, Okuniewicz, Ricks, Rundhaug (Carlson), Toews, VanOrden, Woodward, Zito, Zuiderveld. Total - 26.

NAYS—Guthrie, Rabe, Ruchti, Semmelroth, Taylor, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Total - 7.

Absent and excused—Anthon, Shippy. Total - 2.

Total - 35.

Whereupon the President declared [S 1373](#) 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 11:56 a.m. until the hour of 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 12, 2026.

SCOTT BEDKE, President

Attest: JENNIFER NOVAK, Secretary