

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 19, 2026

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Scott, Representatives Palmer, Holtzclaw, Skaug, Alfieri, Crane(12), Boyle, Dygert, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Bingham, Church, Haws

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Crane (13) called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Chairman Crane (13) welcomed new committee members, **Rep. Church, Rep. Haws,** and **Rep. Bingham** to House State Affairs and reviewed committee rules.

RS 32824: **Rep. Skaug** presented **RS 32824** which amends Idaho Code to require paid signature gatherers, on certain petitions, to wear a badge with their name and the name of persons or entities that are providing payment to those persons, if any. This legislation increases transparency to the petition process.

Committee members had questions and comments around the gathering of signatures, payments, and/or filings with the Secretary of State, the process of multiple organizations and people paying for gatherers, the use of 'entities' rather than 'entity', the use of 'persons' rather than 'person', confirmation of outside paid signature gatherers, consequences for not having badges, process to confirm Idaho residence, changing language from residents of 18 years of age to a qualified elector, tracking statutory sections to determine the status of qualified electors, including qualified election language that references specific sections, and references on established violation codes within the document.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 32824** with changes on page 1 line 28 changing 'person' to 'persons' and line 29 changing 'entity' to 'entities' and line 23 changing 'person' to 'persons' and 'entity to entities'.

A committee member commented on case law in reference to persons vs entities, changing elector age, and qualifying electors.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Haws** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 32824** with the following changes: Line 23, change 'person' to 'persons' and strike out the word 'entities' and the word 'or' and line 28, change 'person to persons' and strike out the word 'or' and line 29, striking out 'or'.

Rep. Skaug spoke in opposition to the substitute motion.

VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Substitute motion failed by voice vote.**

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: **Original motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32825C1: **Rep. Skaug** presented **RS 32825C1** which allows the legislature to retain private counsel (attorneys) for actions against the federal government, when, in the judgment of the Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, it is in the interests of the state to prosecute such actions.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to introduce **RS 32825C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32992: **Rep. Mitchell** presented **RS 32992** which recognizes the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding. Idaho seeks to demonstrate its deep patriotism and unwavering commitment to the core principles of liberty, equality, justice, and self-governance by endorsing a series of meaningful initiatives that embody these enduring ideals through active civic engagement.

MOTION: **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 32992** and recommend it be sent to the second reading calendar.

Committee members had questions around trees that can never be touched, brand new trees, tracking 250K acts of service, and trees planted on private or public property.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Mitchell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary