

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman Bjerke, Senators Harris, Zuiderveld, Lenney, Shippy, Blaylock, Keyser, and Wintrow

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chair VanOrden** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve the Minutes of January 15, 2026. **Vice Chairman Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chair VanOrden passed the gavel to Vice Chair Bjerke.

**DOCKET NO. 16-0308-2502** **Federal Welfare Programs (ZBR New Chapter) - Pending Rule. Jared Larsen**, Chief of Staff, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) explained the proposed rule chapter was a consolidation of all rule chapters related to federal welfare programs overseen by the Division of Self Reliance. This new chapter combined the Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI) Program and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) into one administrative rule chapter. The rules that were duplicative of state statute, federal statute, or federal regulations were removed. **Mr. Larsen** noted this rule chapter was short as a result of the TAFI Program being primarily federally funded and LIHEAP being entirely federally funded. Eligibility and implementation of both programs were federally regulated.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Zuiderveld** asked if there was concern about the loss of federal funding for these programs considering the direction of the federal government. **Mr. Larsen** stated both programs were codified in federal statute and would require 60 votes in favor of dissolution in the United States Senate.

**Senator Blaylock** asked if there was a conflict between statute and administrative rule chapter 16.03.08 regarding citizenship eligibility. **Mr. Larsen** stated 2025 H 135, addressed all individuals over 18 and their citizenship status for any program. **Senator Blaylock** asked why LIHEAP listed citizenship and residency under eligibility while the TAFI program only listed citizenship. **Mr. Larsen** stated eligibility criteria for LIHEAP was US citizenship or legal non-citizen status. If the docket did not cover a requirement it was governed by Idaho Code and federal law.

**Senator Blaylock** asked Mr. Larsen to clarify the requirements under Rule 101. Mandatory TANF Household Members. **Mr. Larsen** explained the rule listed individuals who must be counted, if present, when assessing a household's total qualifying income.

**Senator Shippy** asked about the procedure used to determine citizenship. **Mr. Larsen** deferred to Kristen Matthews. **Kristen Matthews**, Division of Self-Reliance Bureau Chief (IDHW), stated the Division used the U.S. Department of Homeland Security SAVE system to verify citizenship status. **Senator Shippy** clarified that those eligible included citizens and legally present non-citizens. **Ms. Matthews** stated Senator Shippy was correct.

**MOTION:** **Chair VanOrden** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0308-2502**. **Senator Blaylock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 16-0308-2501** **Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI) Program (Chapter Repeal) - Pending Rule.** **Mr. Larsen** explained this chapter was inserted into administrative rule chapter 16.03.08, therefore he asked the Committee to approve the repeal of this rule chapter. **Mr. Larsen** noted that TAFI and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) were the same program. TAFI was Idaho's name for the program and future references would use the federal name TANF.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0308-2501**. **Chair VanOrden** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 16-0414-2501** **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) (Chapter Repeal) - Pending Rule.** **Mr. Larsen** explained this chapter was inserted into administrative rule chapter 16.03.08, therefore he asked the Committee to approve the repeal of this rule chapter.

**MOTION:** **Senator Blaylock** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0414-2501**. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 16-0501-2501** **Use and Disclosure of Department Records (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule.** **Mr. Larsen** explained that this administrative rule chapter was used as an internal manual for processing record requests. The language related to vital statistics was duplicative of Idaho Code Chapter 2, Title 39 and was removed. Language duplicative of the Public Records Act, Idaho Code Chapter 1, Title 74 was also struck.

**MOTION:** **Senator Wintrow** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0501-2501**. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 15-0101-2501** **Rules Governing Senior Services and Older Americans Act Programs (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule.** **Judy Taylor**, Director of the Idaho Commission on Aging (Commission) explained the proposed rule changes. She informed the Committee that the Commission's mission was to keep older Idahoans in their homes for as long as possible, despite cognitive or physical limitations. The chapter was reviewed to streamline and simplify language in accordance with Executive Order 2020-01: Zero-Based Regulation. No negative comment was received during negotiated rulemaking.

**MOTION:** **Chair VanOrden** moved to approve **Docket No. 15-0101-2501**. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 15-0120-2501**      **Rules Governing Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Operations (Chapter Repeal) - Pending Rule**  
**Ms. Taylor** explained the Commission conducted research and analysis that determined this rule chapter was duplicative of federal law, federal regulations, and contract terms with the Area Agencies on Aging. Therefore she asked the Committee to approve the repeal of this rule chapter.

**MOTION:**            **Senator Harris** moved to approve **Docket No. 15-0120-2501**. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:**      There being no further business at this time, **Chairman VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

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Senator VanOrden  
Chair

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Madyson Crea  
Secretary