

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 21, 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:** Rep. Palmer

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 A.M.

RS 32967: **Rep. Manwaring** presented **RS 32967**. This legislation strengthens government transparency and protects public employees who communicate with the Idaho Legislature. It establishes clear protections for public employees who, in good faith, communicate with legislators, legislative committees, or legislative staff, including responding to legislative requests or participating in hearings. Agencies are prohibited from adopting or enforcing policies that restrict or require prior approval for such communications, while protections do not extend to knowingly false statements or unlawful disclosure of confidential information. The bill also requires executive branch agencies to respond in good faith and within defined time lines to public records requests from legislators or legislative staff acting on behalf of the Legislature, while preserving existing confidentiality protections.

A committee member asked for an example of employee protections around communication with the Legislature.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 32967**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33032: **Rep. Church** presented **RS 33032**. The purpose of this resolution is to condemn the political violence and crimes against the state that occurred in 2025, both in Idaho and across the United States. The resolution reaffirms the fundamental principles of a free and civil society, honors those who serve our shared communities, and emphasizes the importance of open and respectful political discourse without fear of violence or retribution. This resolution calls upon all Idahoans, regardless of their background, party affiliation, or beliefs, to reject political violence and crimes against the state, recommit to respectful and constructive debate, and uphold the shared values of civility, unity, and mutual respect as Americans.

Rep. Church thanked **Chairman Crane**, **Rep. Alfieri**, **Rep. Scott**, and **Rep. Skaug** for their support of this bill and addressed the committee with changes made to the language from the original RS hearing.

MOTION: **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to introduce **RS 33032** and recommend it be sent to the second reading calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Church** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 A.M.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary