

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, January 23, 2026

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Bernt, Senators Anthon, Harris, Den Hartog, Adams, Shippy, and Ruchti

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Toews

**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:** **Chairman Guthrie** called the meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

**WELCOME:** **Chairman Guthrie** welcomed Pages Cooper Smith and Emmy Roberts to the State Affairs Committee meeting and thanked them for their willingness to fill in. **Chairman Guthrie** notified the Committee that after State Affairs was adjourned on Monday, January 26, 2026, the Committee would be joined by American Falls High School's Future Farmers of America Chapter who will be giving a presentation on agricultural issues related to public lands.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of David Dean of Meridian, Idaho to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board** to serve a term commencing April 11, 2025 and expiring April 11, 2029. **Mr. Dean** told the Committee that he is from California but has lived in Idaho since 1964. He attended The College of Idaho and graduated from Boise State University. He began his career as a Certified Public Accountant before he joined the recycling business. Mr. Dean started Western Records Destruction (WRD), a company that destroyed confidential records. **Mr. Dean** explained that his son is now running WRD and he had since retired.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Bernt** noted how lucky the Committee was to have Idahoans who were able and willing to serve in Gubernatorially appointed positions and asked Mr. Dean his reason for serving on the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board (Board). **Mr. Dean** said that the Board was very important for the State of Idaho and this was a way for him to give back to his community. He believed his background made him a good fit and that he would be an asset to the Board.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Appointment of Leighton Linning to the Commission on Human Rights** to serve a term commencing August 29, 2025 and expiring July 1, 2027. **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send the Gubernatorial appointment of **Leighton Linning**, to the Commission on Human Rights, to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Brian Scigliano to the Commission on Human Rights** to serve a term commencing July 1, 2025 and expiring July 1, 2028. **Senator Ruchti** moved to send the Gubernatorial reappointment of **Brian Scigliano**, to the Commission on Human Rights, to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 32950** **Relating to Highway Districts and Elections.** **Senator Den Hartog** explained that the purpose of this legislation was to change the process by which Highway District Commissioners are elected by requiring participation in a May primary, district residency, and a county-wide election.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 32950** to print. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairman Guthrie passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Bernt.

**DOCKET NO. 11-0501-2501** **Rules Governing Alcohol Beverage Control- Pending Rule.** **Russ Wheatley** introduced himself as former Lieutenant Colonel of the Idaho State Police and current Deputy Director and Chief of Staff to Colonel Bill Gardiner. **Mr. Wheatley** had worked in Alcohol Beverage Control for 15 years and explained that these rule changes were based on feedback he received from the public and the 2025 Legislative Session. **Mr. Wheatley** told the Committee that the changes to this rule eliminated misleading language and made it less restrictive.

**MOTION:** **Senator Shippy** moved to approve **Docket No. 11-0501-2501**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 34-0301-2501** **Rules Implementing the Sunshine Law- Pending Rule.** **Matthew Reiber** introduced himself as the Deputy Secretary of State for Secretary Phil McGrane. **Mr. Reiber** referenced 2025 H 398, legislation that came from the Secretary of State's office last year that codified lobbying laws and rules. **Mr. Reiber** noted that because of H 398, there was no more need for some sections in this rule, which was the extent of the change they hoped to make.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve **Docket No. 34-0301-2501**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 38-0404-2501** **Rules Governing Capitol Mall Parking (ZBR Chapter Rewrite)- Pending Rule.** **Steve Walker** introduced himself as the Director of the Idaho Department of Administration. He shared the purpose of the rule change which was to utilize more concise language and implement abbreviations. **Mr. Walker** noted that two public meetings were held and no feedback was received on this rule.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve **Docket No. 38-0404-2501**. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 32832C1** **Alcoholic Beverage Licensing Fees.** **Chairman Guthrie** explained the purpose of this legislation was to adjust alcohol licensing fees because most have not been raised since 1947. He referenced Idaho Code which said that liquor licenses were not supposed to be a property right and acknowledged that over the years it had become one. **Chairman Guthrie** provided statistics to help put into perspective what the raise in fees would look like and urged the Committee to be realistic as they promote temperance in Idaho.

**MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 32832C1** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33041** **Resolution to add new Joint Rule 24 Pertaining to Legislation Volume.** **Chairman Guthrie** shared that this was a concurrent resolution to create a new Joint Rule 24 which would limit drafting and routing slip volume requests made by the Legislature. He clarified that this limitation would not pertain to routing slip changes being made on the same topic, only to the number of requests for different topics made by legislators. **Chairman Guthrie** assured the Committee that this request was not from the Legislative Services Office, but was a problem he noticed over the years and wanted to address.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 33041** to print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Vice Chairman Bernt** adjourned the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

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Senator Guthrie  
Chair

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Abby Rowe  
Secretary