

MINUTES  
**HOUSE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Redman, Vice Chairman Wheeler, Representatives Crane(13), Palmer, Barbieri, Cornilles, Crane(12), Ehlers, Monks, Cannon, Harris, Marmon, Rasor, Thompson, Cheatum, Veile, Berch, Green

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Reps. Wheeler and Green

**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 Redman** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**RS 33044:** **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 33044**, explaining the proposed legislation will allow military chaplains to work as licensed counselors in the state of Idaho. Chaplains are required by the U.S. Department of War to obtain a Master of Divinity degree with a 72 credit minimum. This equates to 20% more credits than the typical master's in counseling. This degree covers religious and counseling education. In addition to this degree, chaplains attend a 12-13 week (depending on the branch of military) Chaplains Officer Leadership Course where their counseling education continues. A certified military chaplain's initial certifications required hours exceed that of a potential counselor seeking to work in this field as a civilian.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Ehardt** explained chaplains receive more training and hours than counselors not in the military.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Cannon** made a motion to introduce **RS 33044**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 33004:** **Rep. Cornilles** presented **RS 33004**, explaining the proposed legislation would require Idaho retail and service establishments with employee-only restrooms to allow individuals with qualifying medical conditions access to their restrooms.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 33004**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 513:** **Rep. Ehlers** presented **H 513**, explaining the legislation lowers the amount of education hours for a cosmetology license from 1,600 to 1,000. It also lowers the amount of apprenticeship hours for a cosmetology license from 3,200 to 2,000. This lowers the barriers for people seeking to become cosmetologists. It also makes Idaho more competitive with other states. Rep. Ehlers gave examples of training hours required for other licensed fields. He also shared he is presenting **RS 33099**, which is the same as **H 513** with the exception of having a later implementation date of January 1, 2027. Rep. Ehlers gave examples of training hours requirements for other licenses and explained the training hours present a barrier to entry to the profession.

**Rep. Ehlers** introduced **Alyssa Bowman** who shared her experience as the owner of multiple salons in Idaho and Utah. Ms. Bowman explained **H 513** lowers the barrier to entry by making the current process shorter and less costly, while maintaining public safety.

In response to committee questions, **Ms. Bowman** explained reciprocity varies by state. She shared it's typical if a person holds a license and has practiced for 5 years or more, they can become licensed in another state. She also explained there is a shortage of hair dressers; reducing the training hours will increase those numbers. She also explained the legislation makes no change to the testing by the cosmetology board and standards have not changed.

**Ronda Clark, Lou Starita, Lance Giles, and Kelsey Crawford** testified in **opposition** to **H 513** explaining their concerns about student preparedness, public safety, reciprocity, and additional training cost for salons.

**Kaytlin O'Neal, Jaymee Hooten, and Ron Nate** testified in **support** of **H 513**, sharing the legislation reduces the barrier to entry and noted similar training hour requirements in other states has been implemented successfully.

The committee inquired regarding reciprocity, testing parameters, workplace training, product safety, education standards, reciprocity, tuition cost, and curriculum.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Crane (13)** made a motion to **HOLD H 513** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Rep. Berch** requested to register an objection.

**Chairman Redman** put the committee at ease for 3 minutes.

**RS 33099:** **Rep. Ehlers** presented **RS 33099**, explaining the proposed legislation is the same as **H 513** except the implementation date is January 1, 2027 rather than July 1, 2026 in order to give the schools more time to prepare.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 33099** and recommended it be sent to the second reading calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Berch and Cheatum** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Ehlers** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 514:** **Rep. Skaug** presented **H 514**, explaining the legislation amends Idaho Code 54-5810 to clarify when cosmetology students may take their exam for cosmetology licensing. A cosmetology student will be allowed to take the licensing exam after 80% of their coursework is complete, thus allowing them to immediately enter the workforce upon graduation, so long as they pass the exam.

In response to committee questions, **Rep. Skaug** shared he would consider deregulation in the future.

**Lance Giles**, on behalf of the Northwest Career Colleges Idaho, testified in **support** of **H 514**.

**Kelsey Crawford** testified in **opposition** of **H 514** expressing concerns about student readiness.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Ehlers** made a motion to send **H 514** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation

Speaking to the motion, committee members expressed the need to balance safety and the free market.

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

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm.

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Representative Redman  
Chair

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Michelle A Anderson  
Secretary