

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 03, 2026
TIME: 3:00 P.M.
PLACE: Room WW54
MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair VanOrden, Vice Chair Bjerke, Senators Harris, Zuiderveld, Lenney, Shippy, Blaylock, and Wintrow
ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Keyser

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 3:02 p.m.

RS 33128 **Relating to the Chiropractic Practice Act. Senator Anthon** stated the legislation added one word "prescribe" to Idaho Code § 54-716. This section of code authorized chiropractors to administer certain prescription drugs, limited to vitamins, minerals, and fluids. The purpose of adding the word "prescribe" was to allow chiropractors to purchase the prescription drugs listed in this section of code. Despite the fact that chiropractors could inject, possess, and use these drugs in their practice, pharmacies and pharmaceutical distribution centers would not provide them to chiropractors because they were not allowed to prescribe them.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 33128** to print. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 33023 **Relating to Hospitalization of Mentally Ill. Senator Harris** explained this legislation amended Idaho's involuntary commitment statute to include tribal health care facilities as an acceptable site to hold an individual whom a peace officer or medical staff believed posed a grave threat to himself or others due to mental illness. The legislation stated for the purposes of this section the definition of peace officer included tribal police officers. This change addressed concerns raised by tribes regarding challenges coordinating with counties to ensure the timely completion of initial evaluations for tribal members experiencing mental health crises on reservations. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW) was consulted and the legislation did not change legal proceedings related to involuntary committals. There was no fiscal impact at the state or local level.

MOTION: **Senator Shippy** moved to send **RS 33023** to print. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 32893 **Relating to the Blind and Visually Impaired. Vice Chair Bjerke** explained this legislation was part of Idaho's DOGE Task Force initiative to remove outdated code from Idaho statutes. The legislation struck a section of code from the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The language outlined an outdated process for individuals going blind to be referred by their doctor to the Commission.

MOTION: **Senator Blaylock** moved to send **RS 32893** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 32994 **Relating to Child Protection.** **Senator Wintrow** explained this legislation updated Idaho's child protection statutes to clarify the application of existing provisions when a child was in the custody of the State. Specifically, the bill clarified that mandatory in-person visitation was not required when sexual or physical abuse had been substantiated. Additionally, it clarified existing provisions that allowed a court to consider termination of parental rights when the Department of Health and Welfare initiated proceedings.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Shippy** asked if the language had been reviewed by any magistrate judges as page six of the bill gave the court instructions. **Senator Wintrow** stated the legislation was sent to the courts and no negative input was received.

MOTION: **Senator Zuiderveld** moved to send **RS 32994** to print. **Vice Chair Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

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

RS 33184 **Relating to Rural Health Transformation.** **Chair VanOrden** stated the purpose of this legislation was to establish the Idaho Rural Health Transformation Program in state statute and to create the Idaho Rural Health Transformation Fund within the state treasury. This fund would receive federal grant moneys awarded to Idaho through the federal rural health transformation program and any additional moneys appropriated by the Legislature. This legislation also established the Rural Health Transformation Committee, a legislative oversight body responsible for governance, review, and recommendations related to the use of rural health transformation funds. The committee would ensure funds were used solely for federally approved purposes, were distributed through a transparent and accountable process, and aligned with Idaho's approved rural health transformation plan. The committee would provide legislative oversight, require sustainable planning for funded initiatives, receive regular reports on expenditures and outcomes, and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding the use of funds. The act included public reporting requirements and sunsetted the committee once all funds had been expended. An emergency clause was included to allow timely implementation consistent with federal grant timelines.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Zuiderveld** asked for clarification on what the committee was responsible for under this legislation. **Chair VanOrden** explained this was the Legislature's oversight committee. As part of the grant application an oversight committee was set up and approved by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. This committee was separate and would allow the Legislature oversight of the funds awarded by the grant.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 33184** to print. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Madysen Crea
Secretary