

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 04, 2026

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

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

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

WELCOME: **Chairman Guthrie** welcomed the Committee and asked Acting Senator Elisha Toews to introduce herself. She shared that she was the wife of a Committee member, Senator Ben Toews, and represented District 4.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Shippy** moved to approve the Minutes of January 28, 2026. **Senator Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT: **Correspondence from the Governor regarding the withdrawal of a Gubernatorial Reappointment.** The Governor has withdrawn the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Estella Zamora to the Commission on Human Rights effective immediately. No further action by the Committee is necessary and the paperwork regarding the reappointment was referred to the office of the Secretary of the Senate for transmittal to the Governor.

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

DOCKET NO. 52-0103-2501 **Rules Governing the Operations of the Idaho State Lottery (ZBR Chapter Rewrite)- Pending Rule.** **Andrew Arulanandam**, Director of the Idaho State Lottery, introduced this rule. He acknowledged key players in this rule revision including the Idaho State Lottery Chief Financial Officer, Compliance Department, and Director of Security. **Mr. Arulanandam** walked the Committee through several changes and indicated that much of it was language cleanup and specification. These changes would reduce this Rule by 18 pages and 9,144 words in an attempt to make it more clear, enhance transparency with the public, and protect the integrity of the game.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to approve **Docket Number 52-0103-2501**. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

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

RS 32988C1 **Distilleries, Liquor License.** **Senator Shippy** explained that the purpose of this legislation was to authorize distilleries to sell liquor by the drink from brands that they own. He shared that distilleries outside of city limits do not have the ability to purchase liquor licenses, instead they must appeal directly to the Idaho Legislature for a specialty license, leaving them with a competitive disadvantage. **Senator Shippy** noted that he received feedback from distilleries, researched legislation from Idaho's neighboring states, and consulted the Idaho State Police Alcoholic Beverage Control throughout this process.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 32988C1** to print. **Senator Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 33134 **Public Lands in Idaho.** **Senator Adams** explained that this joint resolution regarding Idaho Public Lands proposed an amendment to Section 8, Article IX of the Idaho State Constitution, similar to an RS he previously introduced this session, but with a small language change allowing for the acquisition of new rights. This change is the result of feedback he received and he believed it will now be even more valuable to the public.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 33134** to print. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 8:17 a.m.

Senator Guthrie
Chair

Abby Rowe
Secretary