

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 05, 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:** None

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.

MOTION: **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to approve the minutes of Monday February 2, 2026 and Tuesday February 3, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Crane (13) turned the gavel over to **Vice Chair Scott**.

RS 33159: **Rep. Palmer** presented **RS 33159**. This proposed legislation places information technology procurement within the Office of Information Technology Services ("ITS"). ITS will be required to consult with agency heads about the needs of the department, conduct an analysis of the IT equipment or service needed, and then procure the IT product or service for the department.

MOTION: **Rep. Holtzclaw** made a motion to introduce **RS 33159**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33195: **Rep. McCann** presented **RS 33195**. This proposed legislation amends Idaho Code Section 67-6604, relating to Campaign Finance. This will require all political candidates to open a separate bank account for the purpose of collecting contributions and paying expenses of one's campaign and it will require a candidate who loans personal funds to his own campaign, to certify to the Idaho Secretary of State.

MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 33195**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

HJR 7: **Rep. Price** presented **HJR 7**. The purpose of this joint resolution is to put a question to the citizens of Idaho if they want to repeal Article IX Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Idaho (Also known as "The Blaine Amendment").

Committee members had questions and comments around Idaho's acceptance of the Blaine Amendment due to bigotry, state allocations to Muslim schools who teach Sharia law, ability to audit churches, consequences for tax dollars to religious schools and the protection of the misuse of tax dollars, the Blaine Amendments K-12 Schools, equally funded schools, Blaine Amendment applying across any church, religious society, or religious purpose, people escaping religious persecution, a repealed Amendment, funding across all denominations, Satanic school funding, the appeal of the Blaine Amendment allowing state funding to religious schools, disqualified funding or programs to a religious school, legislation options, if voters repeal the Amendment, is money automatically going to flow to Christian schools, religious bigotry, consequences of removing the Blaine Amendment, the affects of government funding schools, and guardrails to keep government out of religious doctrine.

Chris Cargill, Mountain States Policy Center; **Brian Almon**, Self; **Shane Macaulay**, Self; **Matt Edwards**, Citizens Alliance of Idaho; **Grace Howat**, Idaho Family Policy Center; **Kate Hartley**, Pacific Justice Institute; **Danny Steinmeyer**, Pastor; **Kristina Hardy**, Self; spoke in support of HJR 7.

Asha Muhingi, Self; **Briana Valadao**, Self; **Adam Pendergrass**, Self; spoke in opposition of HJR 7.

Committee members asked questions about state tax dollars to religious schools, scholarships to religious schools, effort by Idaho citizens to bring this up through the initiative process, discriminatory motivation, protestant control of the education system, direction of funds to endorsed religion, public school protection, and the US Constitution prohibits discrimination of a specific religion.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made to motion to send **HJR 7** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Other committee members spoke about neutrality of the law and if the money flowing is equitable and neutral, opened to insure every opportunity and access in a public sphere to all religions and not one over the other, more lawsuits, ramification of financial security of public schools, mandate to fund public schools, no finding by the Supreme Court violates the First Amendment, history does not dictate the Amendment but it does shape it. The history of 1890 of people with no rights to vote, and it is now time to remove religious bigotry in the State of Idaho.

Rep. Price in closing read the Idaho Constitution Preamble.

A committee member made a comment of the Blaine Amendment removal on the motivation of the people of the past affecting the people of the future and the antiquated social contract language.

ROLL CALL VOTE: A Roll Call Vote was requested. **Original motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE and 6 NAY and 0 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Crane (13), Scott, Palmer, Holtzclaw, Skaug, Alfieri, Crane (12), Boyle.** Voting in opposition to the motion: **Reps. Dygert, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Bingham, Church, Haws.** **Rep. Price** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 A.M.

Representative Scott
Vice Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary