

MINUTES  
**SENATE COMMERCE & HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Foreman, Vice Chairman Lenney, Senators Lakey, Guthrie, Bernt, Zito, Ward-Engelking, and Ruchti

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Senator Nichols

**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 Foreman** called the meeting of the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Senator Todd Lakey to the State Insurance Fund Board.**

**MOTION:** **Senator Bernt** moved to confirm the Gubernatorial Reappointment of **Senator Todd Lakey** to the State Insurance Fund Board. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Kevin Settles to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board (IHIEB).**

**MOTION:** **Senator Guthrie** moved to confirm the Gubernatorial Reappointment of **Kevin Settles** to the IHIEB. **Senator Bernt** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 32897** **Relating to Veterans. Senator Lakey** explained this proposed legislation was part of the Idaho DOGE Task Force cleanup effort. He explained that this proposal repealed outdated provisions related to veteran services assets that had previously been held in trust by the Department of Health and Welfare, but had been transferred to the Division of Veteran Services in the year 2000. He also noted that provisions regarding State matching funds for the construction of a veterans' home were no longer needed because the facility had been completed and operating for several years.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Lenney** moved to send **RS 32897** to print. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 32901** **Relating to State Employment. Senator Lakey** noted this legislation was another Idaho DOGE Task Force cleanup measure. He explained that it repealed code sections dealing with:

- the transition of former county public defender employees to State employment and the transfer of their certifications, which had already occurred;
- and comp time provisions tied to specific dates in 2008 and other deadlines that had long passed

These sections were no longer necessary.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Lenney** moved to send **RS 32901** to print. **Senator Bernt** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 32906** **Relating to the Public Employee Retirement System (PERSI).** **Senator Lakey** explained that this legislation repealed Idaho Code §§ 33-2140 and 33-2144, relating to a lump-sum payment for community college employees in July 1984 and several sections in Title 59, Chapter 13 dealing with older retirement or contribution rules for firefighters and related employees, all tied to dates in the 1980s that were no longer applicable. This proposed legislation also made conforming corrections to other code references

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Ward-Engelking** queried if there was any opposition to this proposed legislation. **Senator Lakey** remarked there had been none.

**MOTION:** **Senator Zito** moved to send **RS 32906** to print. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33240** **Relating to the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI).** **Senator Zito** explained that the purpose of the legislation was to permanently remove the sunset provision in Idaho Code § 59-1356(5) so that the State could continue to employ PERSI retirees without negatively impacting the retirement system. She emphasized that this would allow continued use of experienced retirees to address workforce shortages, especially in certain critical areas, without increasing risk to the system.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Lenney** moved to send **RS 33240** to print. **Senator Lakey** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 514** **BARBER AND COSMETOLOGY SERVICES - Amends existing law to provide for the taking of examinations upon completion of 80 percent of education hours.** **Representative Bruce Skaug** explained that the bill allowed cosmetology students to take the State licensing exam after completing 80 percent of their coursework, so they could be licensed and ready to work as soon as they graduated, instead of facing a gap while waiting to test and receive results. He noted there had been no known opposition and that schools and students supported the bill.

**MOTION:** **Senator Zito** moved to send **H 514** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Foreman** adjourned the meeting at 1:46 p.m.

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Senator Foreman  
Chair

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Linda Kambeitz  
Secretary