

MINUTES
JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 11, 2026
TIME: 8:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room C310
MEMBERS: Senators Co-Chair Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke, Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Galloway, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow
Representatives Co-Chair Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Petzke, Manwaring, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris, Green
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Petzke, Harris

Co-Chair Tanner (14) called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Mr. Noah Peterson, Analyst, LSO Budget & Policy, provided an overview of the Department of Juvenile Corrections (IDJC), including its organizational structure. He also examined the consolidated fund analysis, the five-year appropriations and expenditures chart, FY 2025 expenditures by expense class, the five-year base snapshot, and the budget enhancements for FY 2025 and FY 2026. He indicated the outcomes of the FY 2026 budget enhancements.

Mr. Peterson reported the FY 2027 IDJC budget requests included a medical service reimbursement reduction tied to proposed legislation the department ultimately did not pursue; the \$82K was removed from the budget and not recommended by the Governor. IDJC also requested an ongoing net-zero \$327K clinician service transfer from the Department of Health and Welfare to the General Fund. Additional onetime requests included \$939K for replacement items and \$1M for computer hardware recommended by the Office of Information Technology.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Peterson** explained the replacement items in this budget request were separate from the Department of Public Works (DPW) project for the Department of Juvenile Corrections.

Ms. Ashley Dowell, IDJC Director, made brief remarks. She highlighted the department's focus on public safety, skill development, and prevention, noting most youth were served at the county level, juvenile crime had declined, and the population served by IDJC had decreased.

In response to committee questions, **Dir. Dowell** explained the Governor's budget holdbacks led to reductions from eliminated contracts, cost containment, and efficiency measures, including maximizing Medicaid coverage, reducing travel, and consolidating training. She also noted a spring 2025 staffing analysis had identified a shortage of 12 positions; OEMR reclassified six vacant or headquarters positions into direct care roles to address half of the gap.

Mr. Peterson provided an overview of the Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR), including its organizational structure. He also examined the consolidated fund analysis and explained after the chart was created for the Legislative Budget Book, the agency received \$160K into the Renewable Energy Resources Fund for FY 2026; the fund was no longer expected to have a negative ending balance. While examining OEMR's five-year appropriations and expenditures chart, Mr. Peterson explained appropriations did not appear as expenditures until the funds were spent. A \$15M transfer from the General Fund to the OEMR Miscellaneous Revenue Fund in FY 2022 served as the state match for federal energy resilience grants and was reappropriated each year, so the FY 2026 drop reflected only the original appropriation, not reappropriated funds. Mr. Peterson reviewed FY 2025 expenditures by expense class and the budget enhancements for FY 2025 and FY 2026. He indicated the outcomes of the FY 2026 budget enhancements.

Mr. Peterson presented the OEMR FY 2027 ongoing enhancement requests. These budget enhancements included a net-zero FTP and fund realignment; \$107K for the Idaho Orchestrating Nuclear (ION) program; and \$25M for Home Energy Rebates. He noted the FTP/fund realignment and the ION funding were recommended by the Governor; the Governor did not recommend Home Energy Rebates.

Ms. Cally Younger, OEMR Administrator, reported the agency, primarily federally funded, administered grants leveraging four to five times their value to support rural communities through energy efficiency, wildfire prevention, and low-cost energy programs. Staff also coordinated state and federal energy and mining projects, oversaw hydropower relicensing, tracked geothermal and mining developments, and established a nuclear task force with a strategic framework and industry engagement to advance nuclear energy initiatives in Idaho.

In response to committee questions, **Admin. Younger** explained after OEMR did not receive FY 2026 funding for the Strategic Permitting, Efficiency, and Economic Development (SPEED) Council, the department focused on providing a single point of contact to help companies navigate permits, track projects, streamline reviews, and coordinate state agency approvals. She noted Idaho could provide regulatory certainty through standard permits, assist cities and counties in preparing sites, and offer financial incentives, while emphasizing the Idaho National Laboratory remained a major draw for nuclear companies.

In response to a committee question, **Admin. Younger** explained OEMR was exploring a merger with the Office of Species Conservation. The merger aimed to streamline overlapping permitting and functions related to the Endangered Species Act, to eliminate four positions for approximately \$80K in General Fund savings, and to allow staff to expand work in nuclear and mining projects without additional funding while giving policy staff a more comprehensive portfolio.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m.

Representative Tanner (14)
Chair

Alyson Jackson
Secretary