

MINUTES  
**HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 16, 2026

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

**PLACE:** Room EW05

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Ehardt, Vice Chairman Cornilles, Representatives Erickson, Skaug, Weber, Alfieri, Cheatum, Hawkins, Price, Cayler, Rasor, Wheeler, Hostetler, Marmon, Berch, Church

**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 Ehardt** called the meeting 1:30 PM.

**RS 33327:** **Rep. Cornilles** presented **RS 33327**, which provides power to city councils and the library board of trustees to fire and hire a library director, and would only affect libraries operated by cities. Currently in Idaho statute, only the library board of trustees can hire or fire a library director, while a city council has no authority in this process. The proposed legislation would give city councils and library board of trustees shared authority in this area.

When answering questions, **Rep. Cornilles** clarified **RS 33327** would require a city council and library board of trustees to work in tandem when hiring or firing a library director.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to introduce **RS 33327**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 620:** **Rep. Boyle** presented **H 620**, which recognizes boards of county commissioners as experts in all subject matters they are statutorily responsible for when cooperating with the federal government in federal land planning. This will allow county commissioners to be considered a cooperating agency and will allow them to better coordinate their adopted comprehensive plans with federal agencies.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **H 620** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Will Naillon**, representing Custer County; **Clay Boeckel**, representing the Idaho Association of Counties; and **Russ Hendricks**, representing the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation; spoke **in support** of **H 620**.

**Rep. Hawkins** spoke **in support** of the motion, and stated **H 620** will allow counties to better coordinate in advance with federal agencies regarding land management.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Ehardt** called a vote on the motion to send **H 620** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill to the floor.

**H 627:** **Rep. McCann** presented **H 627**, which ensures audience members are able to record video and audio during an open meeting. She stated there have been instances in which people have been asked to leave an open meeting due to recording the meeting. She stated the legislation would not affect executive sessions, which is addressed in current Idaho statute. She stated the legislation could conflict with the Idaho Department of Correction restricting video and audio recording when holding an open meeting at a prison facility.

When answering questions, **Rep. McCann** clarified **H 627** would not apply to non-public agencies, and the language regarding public agency is from current Idaho statute. Although current Idaho statute allows a public meeting to be recorded, she stated this legislation will provide clarity and help ensure press and audience members are not prevented from recording public meetings. She stated she understood the language could limit the scope of what means of recording would be protected, but the intent of the legislation was to protect recording an open meeting by any means.

**Rep. Alfieri** spoke in support of **H 627**, but he stated he was concerned the language was too limiting. If the legislation went to General Orders, he recommended a change on Page 2, Line 5, to remove the word "or," add a comma after "electronic," and add "or other" after "digital," so as to read "by electronic, digital or other means."

**ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to **HOLD H 627** in committee until time certain of February 24th, 2026. He stated this will give efficient time for **Rep. McCann** to bring a new RS to better address the committee's concerns.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Weber** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 627** in committee.

**Chairman Ehardt** put the committee at ease at 1:58 PM.

**Chairman Ehardt** returned the committee at 2:02 PM.

**AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Alfieri** made an amended substitute motion to send **H 627** to **General Orders**.

**Rep. McCann** stated she was not against sending **H 627** to General Orders, but preferred to make a new RS to address this issue.

**Ken Burgess**, representing the Idaho Press Club, testified in support of **H 627**. He clarified the legislation would apply only to entities which fall under open meeting laws, and gave an example in which the press and public were restricted from recording a contentious school board meeting.

**Reps. Rasor and Berch** spoke in support of the amended substitute motion.

**VOTED ON AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Chairman Ehardt** called a roll call vote on the amended substitute motion to send **H 627** to **General Orders**. **Motion carried by a vote of 15 AYE and 1 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Ehardt, Cornilles, Erickson, Skaug, Weber, Alfieri, Cheatum, Price, Cayler, Rasor, Wheeler, Hostetler, Marmon, Berch, and Church. Voting in opposition** of the motion: **Rep. Hawkins. Rep. McCann** will sponsor the bill to the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM.

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Representative Ehardt

Chair

Elijah Phipps

Secretary