

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 18, 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:** Representative(s) Church

**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. Haws** made a motion to approve the minutes of Friday February 13, 2026 and Monday February 16, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:** **Chairman Crane (13)** asked for unanimous consent to reorder the agenda. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**H 673:** **Rep. Raybould** presented **H 673**. This legislation clarifies the requirement that a candidate be physically present in a legislative district to qualify to run for the Idaho House of Representatives and Senate. Candidates must be registered electors for one year prior to the general election and physically live in the declared primary residence for at least 120 days in the year prior to the candidate filing date.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 673** to the floor with the **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members had questions regarding residency requirements, constitutional or legal challenges, and redistricting problems.

**VOTE ON  
MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Raybould** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**RS 33171:** **Rep. Cheatum** presented **RS 33171**. This proposed legislation would allow cities, at their discretion, to enter the state employee health insurance plan.

A committee member asked a question regarding giving employees insurance for a lifetime.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 33171. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 33255:** **Rep. Hill** presented **RS 33255**. The Foreign Adversary Divestment Act will ensure the State of Idaho's public investment dollars are not put at risk in adversary countries so not to fund the development of military technologies and surveillance tools of foreign adversaries that impede the State of Idaho's interests and the interests of the United States.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 33255. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 33289:** **Rep. Mitchell** presented **RS 33289**. The 2025 legislation established uniform dates and deadlines for county clerks ahead of elections. This bill cleans up three additional sections that were inadvertently missed, including soil and water conservation districts, sparsely populated precincts, and canvassing time lines.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Palmer** made a motion to introduce **RS 33289**.  
Committee members had comments and questions regarding what the new language does, if soil and water conservation districts are county wide or farm groups, ground water districts, county wide elections, reasoning for changing the timing of the mail in ballads, and new or current practices for 5 supervisors.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 33343:** **Rep. Green** presented **RS 33343**. The proposed legislation strengthens protections for minors by prohibiting threats to disclose real intimate images and making the disclosure of AI-generated explicit images a felony when the victim is a minor.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 33343**.  
A committee member had a question regarding age exclusions.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 549:** **Rep. Thompson** presented **H 549**. The purpose of this bill is to bring consistency to state code governing petitions for dissolution of special taxing districts. This revision will make this code consistent with other statutes regarding similar dissolution petitions that require only signatures of electors. This amendment will create consistency across Idaho law, reduce administrative burden, and give citizens greater clarity when pursuing lawful petition.  
A committee member had questions regarding hostile districts to include homeowners, register voters, and the reason to have homeowners sign a petition.  
**Tom Grote**, 80 Citizens in Valley County; spoke **in support** of **H 549**.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **H 549** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Thompson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 A.M.

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Representative Crane (13)  
Chair

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Liaza Richardson  
Secretary