

MINUTES  
**JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 19, 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 Furniss, Bruce, Green

**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 Industrial Commission, 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.

**Mr. Peterson** presented the FY 2027 ongoing enhancement requests for the Industrial Commission. These ongoing budget enhancements include \$288K for the IRIS maintenance contract, \$35K to expand training courses and seminar offerings, and \$69K for the Peace/Detention Officer Disability Fund. The agency also requested \$674K onetime for replacement computer equipment.

**Mr. Peterson** noted the Commission's Miscellaneous Revenue Fund was sourced from the Commission's annual seminar fees and its Certified Idaho Workers' Compensation Specialist (CWICS) course tuition. He explained an LSO audit found the Miscellaneous Revenue Fund balance was higher than needed. The Commission planned to address this audit finding by expanding in-person course offerings through the state, increasing seminar spending, and providing more services, noting its programs already offered strong value.

In response to a committee question about the ongoing request for the IRIS maintenance contract, **Mr. Peterson** explained the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS) lacked the technical expertise to support the IRIS system and was not yet capable of providing those services.

**Ms. Patti Vaughn**, Benefits Administration Manager, Industrial Commission, made a brief presentation. She emphasized the importance of the IRIS service, noting the fully integrated platform improved efficiencies across all Industrial Commission programs and provided stakeholders with more effective data management and analysis. She noted any IRIS system failure would halt operations across all departments and programs, making ongoing support and maintenance essential to prevent a full agency work stoppage.

**Ms. Vaughn** noted claims to the Peace and Detention Officer Disability Fund had increased; at the end of FY 2025, reimbursement requests exceeded the Commission's appropriation, requiring one payment to be carried over into the next fiscal year due to limited funds.

**Mr. Peterson** provided an overview of the Public Utilities Commission, including its organizational structure. He also examined the consolidated fund analysis, the five-year appropriations and expenditures chart, 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 FY 2027 enhancement request for the Public Utilities Commission. The Commission did not request any ongoing enhancements for FY 2027 and submitted a single onetime funding request of \$35K for computer hardware recommended by OITS.

**Mr. Taylor Thomas**, Administrator, Public Utilities Commission, responded to committee questions. He explained the Indirect Cost Recovery Fund spent just \$6K of the estimated \$219K because rent was not paid from that fund at the time.

**Ms. Janica Bisharat**, Senior Analyst, LSO Budget & Policy, provided an overview of the office of the Secretary of State, its constitutional authority, and its organizational structure. She also examined the consolidated fund analysis, the five-year appropriations and expenditures chart, FY 2025 expenditures by expense class, and the budget enhancements for FY 2025 and FY 2026.

**Ms. Bisharat** presented the FY 2027 enhancements, which included \$350K ongoing for a voter pamphlet, \$20K in ongoing funds transfer from operating expenditures to personnel costs, and \$19K onetime for replacement computer hardware recommended by OITS. She pointed out the original request for reappropriation for a business director position had been withdrawn.

**Mr. Phil McGrane**, Secretary of State, gave a brief presentation highlighting the office's work in both elections and business filings. In response to committee questions, he explained his opposition to an ongoing budget reduction, noting the office generated more revenue than it spent but record growth in business filings and voter registrations had strained staff and slowed processing. He emphasized timely processing was essential for businesses that paid fees and needed filings completed to operate; he observed filings were growing faster than the State's population.

In response to committee questions, **Sec. McGrane** explained the voter pamphlet was required by statute to provide information on voting procedures, constitutional amendments, and initiatives. He said the budget request was structured as ongoing because voter materials were needed each general election cycle, which regularly included ballot measures and spanned fiscal years, making the cost recurring and predictable rather than onetime.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

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Representative Tanner (14)  
Chair

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Alyson Jackson  
Secretary