

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 23, 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:** 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 Crane (13) called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

MOTION: **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to approve the minutes of Tuesday February 17, 2026 and Wednesday February 18, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33446: **Rep. McCann** was to present **RS 33446** which is regarding requirements for open public meetings but asked **Chairman Crane (13)** to hold the proposed legislation for a later date due to working with the Parole Board and the Department of Correction.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Crane (13)** asked for unanimous consent to hold **RS 33446** subject to the call of the Chair. There being no objections, the request was granted.

RS 33144: **Rep. Wisniewski** presented **RS 33144**. This proposed legislation expresses the Idaho Legislature's commitment to restoring the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman, urging the Supreme Court to reconsider the Obergefell v. Hodges decision and return authority over marriage laws to the states and their citizens.

Committee members had questions and comments regarding Idaho's previously passed resolution in 2025 and the purpose for this proposed legislation, trigger bans, updates to the 2006 statistics and updated statistics, changed perceptions of gay marriage from 20 years ago, and previous House floor data.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to introduce **RS 33144**.

Committee members had questions and comments regarding Idaho's Constitutional Amendment for same sex marriage, the definition of Anglo-American legal tradition as it refers to marriage, congressional improper ruling due to the bias of two judges officiating same sex marriages, difficult proposition for Idaho to urge Federal Supreme Court to revisit settled law, unchallenged marriages in other states, marriage is a contract as it relates to the state that gives specific rights, preserving rights to take care of the people we love regardless of the sex of their partner.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 33144** with the following changes: page 1 line 41 after 2000 years, put a period and strike the words," and within common law, the basis of the United States' Anglo-American legal tradition, for more than 800 years."

A committee member commented on the original motion regarding past legislation signed into law, making it illegal to talk about the case, due process and equal protection under the law as it pertains to tax benefits, codes, inheritance, children, and adoption.

**VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Substitute motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Haws and Rep. Church requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

RS 33421:

Rep. Mickelsen presented **RS 33421**. This proposed legislation will set standards and guidelines for the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to follow when contemplating a new large load contract. It does not affect existing large load customers but will set the standard for new large loads.

Committee members asked questions and had comments regarding the affects on nuclear power developments and growth to pay for itself through multiple projects.

MOTION:

Rep. Pohanka made a motion to introduce **RS 33421**.

Committee members had questions and comments regarding why the legislation would treat the large load customers differently than the new ones, Micron's new substation, and data centers required to pay for growth. Other committee members asked if the utilities company helped with the language of the proposed legislation, data to reflect large load increased costs, more time for the PUC to be involved, and reason's why the proposed legislation is being rushed through the process without the PUC involvement.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Motion carried by voice vote.

HJR 10:

Rep. Raybould presented **HJR 10**. The purpose of the Joint Resolution is to establish an updated framework for managing state endowment and public lands. The Amendment replaces the "maximum long-term financial return" mandate with expanded land management practices that prioritize ongoing revenue generation, including but not limited to timber sales, mining, and grazing, followed by public access for recreation, hunting, fishing, and trapping. This resolution preserves all existing options for timber, mining, and grazing, and remains fully compliant with the Idaho Admissions Act without altering the Land Board's structure or the Endowment's beneficiaries.

Clete Edmunson, Executive Director of the Associated Logging Contractors of Idaho; **Travis Jones**, Riley Stegner and Associates; **Brenda Richards**, Rancher from Owyhee County; **Elizabeth Criner**, JR Simplot Company; **Viki Purdy**, Chairman of Adams County Board of Commissioners; **Stephen Thomas**, Idaho Forest Group, spoke **in opposition** of **HJR 10**.

Committee members had questions for **Clete Edmunson** regarding how the changes would affect logging, percentages from logging on state lands, nefarious things that could happen from opening up the Constitution to additional language, and would he have the same argument if the land was timberland. Other committee members asked **Brenda Richards** to choose between federal or state lands and Permit 36 for 30 years of litigation.

Dan Waugh, Idaho Recreation Council; **Jack Hurty**, Idaho Outfitters Guide Association; spoke **in favor** of **HJR 10**.

Benjamin Davenport, Idaho Mining Association; **Dustin Miller**, Idaho Dept. of Lands; **John Richards**, General Council for the Idaho Dept. of Lands; **remain neutral** and have not taken a position as of yet of **HJR 10**.

A committee member asked **Dustin Miller** questions regarding managed lands in the Amendment, no change to the duty to manage the lands as trust assets, and language of the proposed Amendment prioritizing above the revenue generation. Other committee members asked **John Richards** regarding his point of view with the Admissions Act, congressional action to change the Admissions Act, and the landlord's duty to accept bids of large companies that overbid.

Rep. Raybould concluded with comments regarding the financial benefits, changes in beneficiary, Idaho's public access as a second priority, land lord fiduciary obligations, uncertain language, Idaho as a flexible and fast moving state, language in the Constitution, and protections around timber sales, mining, and grazing.

MOTION: **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to send **HJR 10** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members had questions and comments referring to preserving long term benefits around timber and grazing interest, those who benefit from the state, Idaho state lands beneficiary, new money coming from the land, second revenue highest generated industry in the state is recreation, Idaho people should be a beneficiary to the State land, public lands in public hands, and prioritize revenue generated activities over selling land.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made a substitute motion to **HOLD HJR 10** in committee.

Rep. Boyle spoke to the motion in regards to public lands are federal lands, Endowment funds made up from timber, grazing, and mining activities, new money comes from growing and mining on the land, and many lawsuits to come if this legislation is passed.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** requested for a roll call. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 6 AYE and 8 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Crane (13), Scott, Palmer, Skaug, Alfieri, Boyle. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Holtzclaw, Crane (12), Dygert, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Bingham, Church, Haws.**

ROLL CALL VOTE ON THE ORIGINAL MOTION: **Original motion failed by a vote of 7 AYE and 7 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Crane (12), Dygert, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Bingham, Church, Haws. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Crane (13), Scott, Palmer, Holtzclaw, Skaug, Alfieri, Boyle.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 A.M.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary