

MINUTES
HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 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:** Representatives Skaug, Wheeler

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 to order at 1:32 PM.

MOTION: **Rep. Rasor** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026 meeting, February 12, 2026 meeting, and February 16, 2026 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Ehardt introduced the Committee Page for the second half of the session, **Allie Silver**.

Allie Silver introduced herself to the committee. Her great uncle is **Rep. Miller**.

H 661: **Rep. Cornilles** presented **H 661**, which clarifies current statute to ensure persons may contract with solid waste providers who are not franchised with the county for temporary waste collection containers.

MOTION: **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to send **H 661** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Cornilles** will sponsor the bill to the floor.

H 715: **Rep. Cornilles** presented **H 715**, which addresses the hiring and firing process of a library director by a city council and library board of trustees. In current Idaho statute for city-owned libraries, the library board of trustees are the only entity able to hire or fire a library director. He stated the legislation would add a city council's approval when a library board of directors can hire or fire a library director.

When answering questions, **Rep. Cornilles** clarified **H 715** would allow a library board of trustees to come to their city council with their recommendations when hiring a library director. He stated the legislation is in response to a situation which could become a reoccurring issue in the state. He stated city councils currently have the power to hire and fire other leadership positions such as police and fire chiefs.

MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to send **H 715** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Cheatum clarified most cities which own a library have a tax or levy specifically for their library's budget. He also stated there is often no process in state statute to remove a member of a library board of trustees once they are appointed, and a library director is not one of the positions required by Idaho statute for a city council to confirm.

Heather Stout, representing self; and **Vickie Fadness**, representing self; testified **in opposition** to **H 715**. They stated the legislation bypasses local control, and would change the role of the library director.

Chairman Ehardt put the committee at ease at 1:57 PM.

Chairman Ehardt returned the committee to order at 1:59 PM. She stated the purpose for putting the committee at ease was to ensure if a registered testifier was present.

When providing closing statements, **Rep. Cornilles** stated it is appropriate for elected officials to be in charge or assisting when hiring or firing a paid city employee.

Rep. Cayler spoke **in support** of the motion. He stated city councils currently have the authority to hire or fire city employees despite not having expertise in those fields.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Ehardt called a vote on the motion to send **H 715** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Cornilles** will sponsor the bill to the floor.

H 658:

Rep. Berch presented **H 658**, which lays to rest a grave issue brought forward when the majority of a board of directors of a cemetery district resigned. This resulted in the district having to exhume a buried statute in Idaho law which required the governor to make appointments to fill the vacancy. He stated the legislation provides a process for a board of county commissioners to fill vacancies on a cemetery maintenance board of directors when it lacks a functioning quorum. The legislation also establishes requirements for appointees, and allows a board of county commissioners to temporarily assume responsibility of basic functions of the cemetery district until a quorum is reached, as well as use cemetery district funds to solicit applicants. He yielded his time to **Rep. Handy**.

Rep. Handy stated the purpose of being a co-contact for **H 658** was to ensure the legislation would not "die on this hill." Although he did not expect the legislation to create lively debate due to addressing a dead issue. **Rep. Berch** stated the legislation has the support of stakeholders.

MOTION:

Rep. Hostetler made a motion to send **H 658** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Berch** will sponsor the bill to the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Representative Ehardt
Chair

Elijah Phipps
Secretary