

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 02, 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.

Vice Chair Scott called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

RS 33446: **Rep. McCann** was to present **RS 33446** 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:** **Vice Chair Scott** requested unanimous consent to remove **RS 33446** from the agenda, subject to call of the Chair. There being no objections, the request was granted.

RS 33570: **Rep. Raybould** presented **RS 33570**. This proposed legislation clarifies the requirement of a candidate to 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. Bingham** made a motion to introduce **RS 33570** and recommended it be sent directly to the second reading calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Raybould** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 686: **Rep. Wheeler** presented **H 686**. The purpose of this legislation is to provide a narrow exception to existing restrictions on the appointment or employment of individuals related to local elected officials in cities with populations under 10,000, while preserving the intent of Idaho Code 18-1359 and to prevent favoritism and misuse of public office.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 686** to the floor.

Committee members had comments and questions regarding ways the public can bring forward concerns in regards to a hire, appoint upon a city level or interview, need to state they must interview or receive applications, authority to terminate an employee, supervisors with the ability to hire and terminate employees, and the city council assigns supervisor responsibility and disciplinary actions by a unrelated supervisor.

Lance Sayers, Association of Idaho Cities; **Donald Powell**, Mayor of the City of Saint Anthony; **Robert Berlin**, Mayor of City of Roberts; spoke in support of **H 686**.

A committee member had a question to **Lance Sayers** regarding who supervises and gives evaluations to an employee related to the Mayor or City Attorney. Another committee member had a comment that several small communities need this type of bill due to long wait times for positions to be filled if at all.

Rep. Wheeler closed by reviewing the process of hiring an employee with a family member working for the same city.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Rep. Dygert made a substitute motion to send **H 686** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wheeler** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chair Scott welcomed and introduced **Rep. Woller** in substitution for **Rep. Haws**.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 A.M.

Vice Chair Scott
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary