

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 04, 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 (Athay), Pohanka, Bingham, Church, Haws (Woller)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Palmer

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 Monday March 2, 2026.
Motion carried by voice vote.

RS 33585: **Rep. Leavitt** presented **RS 33585**. This states the findings of the Idaho Legislature and affirms Idaho's commitment to advancing state energy sovereignty, protecting ratepayers, and ensuring long-term grid reliability through secure, dispatchable in-state base load energy generation.

A committee member asked a question regarding responsibly developed natural gas.

MOTION: **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to introduce **RS 33585**.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 33585** with the following changes: page 2 line 23, strike the words 'responsibly developed'.

Committee members had questions and comments regarding the language in the proposed legislation not being altered until the full committee hearing and if the natural gas industry gave assistance with the language in the proposed bill. Other committee members spoke to extra language interfering with the flow, not singling out natural gas, and the affects of all major currently approved projects.

**AMENDED
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** **Rep. Church** made an amended substitute motion to introduce **RS 33585** with the following changes: page 2 line 21 add 'responsibly developed' after the word *of* and on line 23, strike the words 'responsibly developed'.

Committee members asked questions regarding defining 'responsibly developed', other places in the proposed bill using the language 'responsibly developed', and customary to repeat language in a resolution.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
AMENDED
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** **Rep. Church** requested a roll call. **Amended substitute motion carried by a vote of 13 AYE and 0 NAY and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Chairman Crane (13), Reps. Scott, Holtzclaw, Skaug, Alfieri, Crane (12), Boyle, Dygert, Athay, Pohanka, Bingham, Church, Woller. Voting in opposition to the motion: None. Rep. Palmer** was absent/excused.

RS 33601: **Rep. Green** presented **RS 33601**. The proposed concurrent resolution would establish a legislative task force to study the crime of sextortion, its impact on victims, and strategies for prevention and response.

A committee member asked a question regarding changing the language from 'Task Force' to 'Interim Committee'.

MOTION: **Rep. Boyle** made motion to introduce **RS 33601** with the following changes: anywhere it mentions 'Task Force' change to 'Interim Committee'. **Motion is carried by voice vote.**

RS 33587: **Rep. Pohanka** presented **RS 33587**. This proposed legislation amends Idaho's Uniform Controlled Substance Act to classify alkaloids found or derived from *Mitragyna Speciosa* (commonly known as Kratom) as Schedule 1 controlled substances.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 33587**.

A committee member had comments and questions regarding Kratom being used to help get people off drugs, other drugs in deceased bodies, problems with synthetic Kratom, natural and synthetic Kratom, federal list of Class 1 drugs, and metabolic process.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a substitute motion to introduce **RS 33587** with the following changes: on page 10 line 28, add the word 'synthetic' after 'any' and strike the words, 'found in or'.

Committee members had questions and comments regarding alkaloids, wanting a full hearing on the established verbiage of the proposed bill, deaths related to Kratom, communication with other sheriffs, law officials and medical professionals, the affective date of July 1, 2026, and the Meridian and Nampa Chief of Police in favor of the original motion. Other concerns members had were additional drugs in the bodies of the dead, outlawing a drug that could initially help people, the use of hard drugs causing more deaths, and the Nampa Police Dept. in favor of the bill.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 1 AYE and 12 NAY and 1 Absent/Excused.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Rep. Scott.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Chairman Crane (13), Reps. Holtzclaw, Skaug, Alfieri, Crane (12), Boyle, Dygert, Athay, Pohanka, Bingham, Church, Woller.** **Rep. Palmer** was absent/excused.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Scott** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

H 638: **Rep. Harris** presented **H 638**. This legislation seeks to return the March primary for presidential elections. Bringing back the primary is the best way to ensure that Idaho voters have the best opportunity to practice their right to vote on the national level.

Chairman Crane (13) asked if the Secretary of State and the Party Chairman were on board with the bill.

Phil McGrane, Secretary of State, **remains neutral** on **H 638**.

Kathy Ackerman, Idaho Association of County Records and Clerks, spoke **in opposition** of **H 638**.

Dan Schoenberg, Self; spoke **in support** of **H 638**.

MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a motion to send **H 638** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Scott** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Harris** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

RS 33447: **Rep. Tanner (14)** was to present **RS 33447**. This Joint Memorial addresses concerns regarding large-scale public program fraud in other states and reaffirms Idaho's commitment to strong fiscal oversight, taxpayer accountability, and fraud prevention in the administration of public funds.

Chairman Crane (13) mentioned the sponsor was not present; therefore, the Chair would entertain a motion to hold the RS subject to the call of the Chair.

MOTION: **Rep. Church** made a motion to return **RS 33447** to the sponsor.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Skaug** made a substitute motion to **HOLD RS 33447** subject to the call of the Chair. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Liaza Richardson
Secretary