

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 04, 2026

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Bernt, Senators Anthon, Harris, Toews, Den Hartog, Bruner (Adams), Shippy, and Ruchti

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Guthrie** called the meeting of the Senate State Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:00 a.m.

RS 33603 **Kinship Caregivers. Senator Wintrow** explained that this resolution was meant to support the Idaho Caregiving Alliance in drafting and executing a strategic plan to support kinship caregiving statewide. She said that the Idaho Caregiving Alliance was established in 2012 and provided resources and support to caregivers in the State (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: **Senator Shippy** asked Senator Wintrow to provide more detail about what plan Idaho would be supporting and if public funding was involved. **Senator Wintrow** explained that no public funds would be used and that the plan was still being developed. She shared that right now, the Idaho Caregiving Alliance was focused on providing Idaho with a vision and direction to move in.

MOTION: **Senator Bernt** moved to send **RS 33603** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 33536 **Pharmacy Benefit Managers. Senator Blaylock** explained this legislation dealt with pharmacy benefit managers (PBM). She said it would do two things, first it would establish a dispensing fee and replacement rates for pharmacies. Second, it would update Idaho law governing PBMs by strengthening transparency and prohibiting practices that disadvantage independent Idaho pharmacies.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Shippy** asked Senator Blaylock if she consulted the Idaho Director of Insurance when drafting this legislation. **Senator Blaylock** said yes.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 33536** to print. **Senator Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chairman Guthrie passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Bernt.

RS 33535 **Presidential Primary. Chairman Guthrie** explained that last time there was a presidential primary in Idaho, it was a caucus. He believed this caucus was the reason there was very little voter turn out. This legislation proposed that all presidential primaries be moved to the first Tuesday following the first Monday in May to create a cleaner election cycle.

MOTION: **Senator Adams** moved to send **RS 33535** to the print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 33511 **Large Power Loads. Chairman Guthrie** explained that this legislation would codify existing public utilities commission rules relating to large power loads.

- MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 33511** to the print. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 33589** **Expiration of Temporary Rules.** **Chairman Guthrie** described a time gap between the expiration of temporary rules and the implementation of pending rules. He shared that this legislation would allow temporary rules to remain intact from the end of the legislative session until the pending rules are adopted on July first of every year.
- MOTION:** **Senator Adams** moved to send **RS 33589** to the print. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- PASSED THE GAVEL:** Vice Chairman Bernt passed the gavel to Chairman Guthrie.
- RS 33586** **Campaign Finance, Religious Organizations.** **Senator Shippy** said this legislation would add language to Title 67, Idaho Code, to allow religious institutions to be involved in ballot initiatives without being forced to report a list of their donors to the Secretary of State's Office. He explained that religious organizations would be exempt from reporting as long as the money spent on the ballot initiative did not exceed 10% of their total receipts in the prior year.
- MOTION:** **Senator Bernt** moved to send **RS 33586** to the print. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 33599** **Wildlife Crossings.** **Senator Bernt** said that this Senate Concurrent Resolution would codify the need for Idaho's Legislature, Governor, and agency directors to recognize and support the implementation of wildlife crossing signs across the state as a means of public safety.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Adams** voiced his support for this legislation and commended Senator Bernt for bringing it before the Committee.
- MOTION:** **Senator Adams** moved to send **RS 33599** to the print. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- H 652** **STATE SYMBOLS - Adds to existing law to provide for hunting as the state sport.** **Senator Bernt** introduced **Betty Grandy** who explained this legislation would allow for hunting to be declared the state sport of Idaho. **Ms. Grandy** shared she was currently a fourth grade home school student who ran a newspaper for her friends and family titled The Grandy Gazette. She shared that she ran a poll with her subscribers who overwhelmingly chose hunting as the right state sport for Idaho. **Ms. Grandy** detailed the importance of hunting for Idaho's history and culture, and shared she received the support of Governor Brad Little. She believed that this legislation would ensure future children are taught about the importance of hunting in Idaho.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Adams** commended Ms. Grandy on her public speaking skills and thanked her for being in Committee. **Chairman Guthrie** asked Ms. Grandy to introduce her family. **Ms. Grandy** pointed out that she was accompanied by her parents, grandfather, and sister. **Senator Ruchti** asked Ms. Grandy to share more about her newspaper. **Ms. Grandy** said that The Grandy Gazette was something she started two years ago that detailed what was going on in the lives of her friends and family. **Senator Bernt** closed the discussion by thanking Ms. Grandy for her efforts and expressed how remarkable it was to see how much young Idahoans care about their families and their communities.
- MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **H 652** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion.

- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Den Hartog** told Ms. Grandy what a wonderful job she did presenting to the Committee. **Senator Den Hartog** voiced that at this time in the legislative session tensions were often high, and that this presentation was special and important to Idaho. **Senator Shippy** expressed his admiration to Ms. Grandy's parents for the wonderful job he believed they were doing teaching and raising their children.
- VOICE VOTE:** The motion to send **H 652** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation carried by **voice vote**.
- DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Guthrie** thanked Ms. Grandy for her presentation and told her what a great job she did.
- ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 8:26 a.m.

Senator Guthrie
Chair

Abby Rowe
Secretary