MINUTES

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE:	Thursday, March 05, 2026
TIME:	Upon Adjournment of Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee
PLACE:	Room C310
MEMBERS:	Chairman Tanner(14), Vice Chairman Miller, Representatives Furniss, Petzke, Manwaring, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris, Green
ABSENT/ EXCUSED:	Representative Green
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 Tanner (14) called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

RS 33238: **Rep. Monks** presented **RS 33238**, proposed legislation addressing encumbrances carrying over between fiscal years. Previously, agencies had up to one year after the fiscal year ended to settle those encumbrances. The proposal shortened the timeframe, allowing agencies only one quarter after the fiscal year to complete liquidation.

MOTION: **Rep. Bruce** made a motion to introduce **RS 33238**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33241C1: **Rep. Monks** presented **RS 33241C1**, proposed legislation addressing non-cognizable expenditures. He explained non-cognizable funds referred to moneys received when the Legislature was not in session, which previously allowed the Governor to spend those funds. Rep. Monks indicated with this legislation, the Legislature could call itself back into session if needed. He referenced the COVID-19 pandemic, when funds from the American Rescue Plan Act were spent without legislative appropriation. The proposal set a $10M cap on non-cognizable spending, with exceptions for declared emergencies, certain projects for the Idaho National Guard, and tuition funds.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to introduce **RS 33241C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33247: **Rep. Ehlers** presented **RS 33247**, proposed legislation related to state agency vacancies and reporting requirements. Agencies were required to report positions vacant for 180 days or more. Positions vacant for one year or longer were to be removed from budget requests, and positions vacant 180–364 days required agencies to either fill them or reduce their requests. Approximately one-third of eliminated positions were to be reassigned to the legislative branch, and agencies were required to provide more detailed travel reports than those available on the Transparent Idaho website.

In response to a committee question, **Rep. Ehlers** stated the changes would follow the budget cycle and take effect when presented to JFAC.

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Keith Bybee**, Division Manager, LSO Budget & Policy, explained certain savings, such as those from the Idaho Transportation Department, were required by the Idaho Constitution to be spent for their designated purpose. He added the proposed legislation provided guidance on using savings, while the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC), in coordination with budget analysts, would determine the timing and application of those funds.

MOTION: **Rep. Bruce** made a motion to introduce **RS 33247**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33352: **Rep. Ehlers** presented **RS 33352**, proposed legislation to direct the Legislative Services Office (LSO) to perform a calculation of historical personnel expenditures compared to original personnel appropriations for each state entity with 50 or more FTPs. This calculation of the five-year average would apply to requests for increases in Change in Employee Compensation (CEC) or benefits.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to introduce **RS 33352**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33494: **Rep. Petzke** presented **RS 33494**, proposed legislation directing the Governor to submit draft legislation and the names of sponsoring legislators whenever the budget included items requiring statutory changes. He explained the measure was prompted by the current year's budget, which contained significant policy items without accompanying draft language or a clear implementation plan. The RS allowed the Governor to propose such changes but required a plan and draft legislation to ensure proper implementation.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to introduce **RS 33494**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Representative Tanner (14)
Chair

Alyson Jackson
Secretary