

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 09, 2026

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Bernt, Senators Anthon, Harris, Toews, Den Hartog, 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.

NOTE: **Chairman Guthrie** noted that the Committee would not be hearing **RS 33661** and **S 1366** at this time.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Ruchti** moved to approve the Minutes of February 25, 2026. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 560 **JURIES - Amends existing law to allow prospective jurors in certain circumstances to volunteer as poll workers in lieu of serving on a jury.** **Senator Hart** explained this legislation would give a county clerk the option to request poll workers for upcoming county elections be pulled from the state jury duty pool of potential jurors. He said this would also give certain potential jurors the option to work the polls and if that work was completed sufficiently, the potential juror would be excused from jury duty for two years. **Senator Hart** shared he spoke with several county clerks who were in favor of this legislation.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **H 560** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Den Hartog** believed this would be a great way for Idahoans who normally would not participate in poll working to experience this kind of public service and thanked Senator Hart for bringing this legislation forward.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to send **H 560** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation carried by **voice vote**.

S 1370 **ABORTION TRAFFICKING - Amends existing law to revise a provision regarding abortion trafficking.** **Senator Lakey** shared that he worked with the Attorney General's Office on this legislation in an effort to deal with the abortion trafficking code provision wording deemed unconstitutional by the ninth circuit court. **Senator Lakey** explained that this legislation would simply remove the word "recruiting" which would ensure the courts could only focus on actual conduct rather than statute wording specifics.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **S 1370** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote** with **Senator Shippy** voting nay.

H 697 **ELECTIONS - Repeals and adds to existing law to provide for the crime of illegal voting, to provide for the crime of interference with an election, and to provide for the crime of tampering with voting machines or vote tally systems.** **Senator Bernt** explained that this legislation would separate three sections of law that were previously combined. He said this was necessary so when someone was charged with one election-related crime, the other crimes were not automatically assumed to have been committed. **Phil McGrane**, Idaho Secretary of State, explained that since these crimes were combined, it was hard for the public to determine which specific election-related crimes were committed. He detailed an example of an individual who was charged because they voted as a felon being reported the same as if they had tampered with voting equipment. **Secretary McGrane** emphasized the importance of making these separate crimes.

MOTION: **Senator Toews** moved to send **H 697** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 698 **VOTING - Amends existing law to revise a provision regarding voting by persons convicted of felonies in other states.** **Senator Bernt** said that this legislation would prevent a felon from restoring their voting rights if they had been convicted of felony treason. He explained that this would also prevent those who had been charged with felony treason in other states from potentially moving to Idaho and voting in Idaho elections. **Secretary McGrane** explained that this loophole was noticed by Representative Bruce Skaug, and this legislation was brought forward to close the loophole and ensure that those convicted of felony treason both in Idaho and other states were treated the same.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **H 698** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Shelly Enderud to the State Building Authority** to serve a term commencing January 1, 2026 and expiring January 1, 2031. Ms. Enderud shared that she was currently the City Administrator for the City of Post Falls, Idaho, and had served with the State Building Authority since 2010. She shared she had a long professional history working in finance, currently served on a loan committee, and just finished a long-term financial plan for Post Falls.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Harris** asked Ms. Enderud to touch on challenges she had encountered during her time on the State Building Authority. **Ms. Enderud** explained that it had been challenging in the past to find reputable professionals for a reasonable price. She also said that often projects that seem like they will go smoothly turn out to have significant challenges.

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

S 1364 **RULES - Amends existing law to provide for the expiration of temporary rules.** **Chairman Guthrie** explained that this legislation would provide clarity, continuity, and consistency in regard to the expiration of temporary rules. He detailed a gap in the current system where the temporary rules expired at the end of the legislative session and the pending rules didn't take effect until July first. He said this would allow for temporary rules to stay in effect and cover the period until the implementation of the pending rules.

MOTION: **Senator Shippy** moved to send **S 1364** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Vice Chairman Bernt** adjourned the meeting at 8:26 a.m.

Senator Guthrie
Chair

Abby Rowe
Secretary