

MINUTES  
**HOUSE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW41

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Redman, Vice Chairman Wheeler, Representatives Crane(13), Palmer, Barbieri, Cornilles, Crane(12), Ehlers, Monks, Cannon, Harris, Marmon, Rasor, Thompson, Cheatum, Veile, Berch, Green

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Reps. Crane (12), Rasor

**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 Redman** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Thompson** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2026 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 721:** **Rep. Crane (13)** presented **H 721**, explaining the legislation streamlines the permitting process for school facilities by eliminating the requirement in which school districts obtain plan approval before advertising for bids and by requiring permitting authorities to complete an initial plan review within 30 days of submission for all public works projects.

Committee inquired regarding plan review process.

Testifying **in support** of **H 721**, **Sean Schupack**, Idaho Associated General Contractors, shared the benefits of the legislation and stated there was no opposition.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Monks** made a motion to send **H 721** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Crane (13)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 618:** **Rep. Sauter** presented **H 618**, explaining the legislation enhances transparency in homeowners' insurance rate-setting and underwriting by requiring insurers to disclose wildfire risk models, scores, and justifications, and to make mitigation-related premium discounts publicly accessible. In response to rising premiums across the West attributed to wildfire risk, this legislation empowers consumers and communities with clear information about how risk is assessed and how specific property- and community-level mitigation actions can reduce both risk and cost.

**Rep. Church** explained further details about the legislation and shared other states which have enacted similar legislation.

Committee inquired regarding data usage, agent communication, other states mandates, proprietary information, competition, cancellation reasons, remedy, free market solution, execution by Department of Insurance, data already provided by Department of Insurance, intellectual property, insurance rates, increased construction cost, and reciprocal concerns.

Testifying **in support** of **H 618**, **Mike Wagner** and **Dennis Hall** shared their experiences demonstrating their support of the legislation.

Testifying **in opposition** to **H 618**, **Michael Kane** and **Elizabeth Criner** shared testimony demonstrating their opposition of the legislation.

**Chairman Redman** declared a Rule 80 stating a possible conflict of interest.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Green** made a motion to send **H 618** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Speaking to the motion, committee members expressed there is a need for a solution to the growing challenge of the cost and keeping of fire insurance, noting insurance companies wouldn't be required to charge less, only provide information. Members also shared the legislation doesn't address the stated problems and expressed concern with mandates and overregulation.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Crane (13)** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 618** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Green** and **Berch** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**H 817:** **Rep. Petzke** presented **H 817**, explaining the legislation allows for an entrepreneur to create a business which provides a mobile cigar service for events. This type of business was not anticipated when the tobacco permitting statutes were originally written. Therefore, the department cannot currently issue a permit for this potential business.

Committee inquired regarding costs, overlapping with beer garden, unauthorized products, compliance checks, FDA products, administrative cost, permit cost, designated beer and cigar garden, definition of unauthorized cigars, location of businesses, and distance and perimeters.

Testifying **in support** of **H 817**, **Brody Aston**, Cigar Association of America and **Amy Hall**, shared their testimony demonstrating support for the legislation.

Testifying **in opposition** to **H 817**, **Erin Bennet**, American Heart Association explained how compliance checks would be difficult to perform with mobile businesses.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **H 817** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Palmer** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Petzke** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chairman Redman** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chair Wheeler**.

**H 801:** **Rep. Redman** presented **H 801**, explaining the legislation permits multifamily and mixed-use housing on religious land and prevents cities from imposing discretionary zoning barriers, excessive dimensional standards, or mandates that deter religious institutions from providing housing to families in accordance with their missions. It establishes ministerial approval procedures and enforcement mechanisms while preserving core health, safety, and infrastructure regulations.

Committee inquired regarding time, obstacles to land use, parking, size restrictions, setbacks, airports, tax exemptions, amenability to amendments.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Crane** made a motion to **HOLD H 801** subject to the call of the chair. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Cheatum** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**H 828:** **Rep. Hostetler** presented **H 828**, explaining the legislation amends Title 56 of Idaho Code to require that Medicaid-funded employment and contracting decisions be based solely on merit, professional qualifications, and clinical competency. It prohibits discriminatory hiring and specified DEI practices—such as race- or sex-based preferences, mandatory bias training, and ideological pledges—while preserving exemptions for federal civil rights compliance, clinical data collection, and accredited medical training. Compliance is made a material condition of Medicaid participation, enforced by the Attorney General through civil penalties, with a limited private right of action for professionals facing retaliation.

Committee inquired regarding health care providers, funding source hiring limitation, penalty, and location of practice.

Testifying **in support** of **H 828**, **Dr. Scott DeRossi**, Do No Harm Action, shared his testimony regarding relying on merit for making hiring decisions.

Testifying **in opposition** to **H 828**, **Kayla Dodson**, concerned this will impact the ability to recruit and retain doctors.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Marmon** made a motion to send **H 828** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Green** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Hostetler** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Vice Chair Wheeler** turned gavel back to **Chairman Redman**.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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Representative Redman  
Chair

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Michelle A Anderson  
Secretary