

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

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

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Bernt, Senators Harris, Toews, Den Hartog, Adams, and Ruchti

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Senators Anthon and Shippy

**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 8:05 a.m.

**PRESENTATION:** **Annual State of the Gunfighters Address for the Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho. Colonel D. Ray Gunter**, 366th Wing Commander for the Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, provided the Committee with an annual update on the base's operational readiness and role in national defense. The update highlighted current modernization efforts, potential future upgrades, community initiatives, and training procedures. **Colonel Gunter** said the base's mission was to produce mission-ready airmen capable of global operations anytime, anywhere. He shared that the base contributed \$800 million in annual economic impact and supported more than 7,300 jobs regionally.

**MOTION:** **Senator Bernt** moved to enter into an **Executive Session** pursuant to Senate Rule 20(E). **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. **Chairman Guthrie, Vice Chairman Bernt, Senators Harris, Toews, Den Hartog, Adams, and Ruchti** voted aye. The motion carried.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** **Unclassified Intelligence Briefing, Pursuant to Senate Rule 20(E), two-thirds vote required.**

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve the Minutes of February 27, 2026. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Adams** moved to approve the Minutes of March 2, 2026. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Bernt** moved to approve the Minutes of March 4, 2026. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT:** **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial reappointment of Robert Donaldson to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board (Board)** to serve a term commencing April 11, 2025 and expiring April 11, 2029. **Mr. Donaldson** shared that he was the former superintendent of the Lewiston School District and served in different administrative capacities for 32 years. He explained that his experience as a public school administrator had prepared him to serve on the Board, as public schools were often the Endowment Fund's largest beneficiaries.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Adams** commended Mr. Donaldson's background in education and asked him how the money from the Endowment Fund was distributed. **Mr. Donaldson** said he believed the money was distributed per pupil.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT:** **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial reappointment of Irving Littman to the Idaho Endowment Fund Investment Board** to serve a term commencing April 11, 2025 and expiring April 11, 2029. **Mr. Littman** explained he had a vast professional background working in finance and believed serving on the Board would be a good opportunity to apply his knowledge. He said it brought him great satisfaction to be able to serve Idaho in this capacity.

**DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Guthrie** asked Mr. Littman to identify the biggest challenge in his role. **Mr. Littman** said the biggest challenge had been keeping everything in order through several large market shifts.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Shelly Enderud to the State Building Authority.** **Senator Harris** moved to send the Gubernatorial reappointment of Shelly Enderud to the floor with the recommendation that she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 686** **BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION - Amends existing law to revise a provision regarding employment of relatives and to provide an exemption regarding the employment of certain relatives.** **Senator Burtenshaw** said this legislation provided a narrow exception for existing restrictions on the employment of individuals related to local elected officials in cities with a population under 10,000 people. He explained that smaller communities had difficulties staffing city positions due to current restrictions so this legislation would address that problem.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Ruchti** talked about a similar issue related to staffing school boards and asked Senator Burtenshaw if this legislation would address that as well. **Senator Burtenshaw** said school boards were not explicitly mentioned in this legislation.

**TESTIMONY:** **Lance Sayers**, representing the Association of Idaho Cities, testified in support of **H 686**. **Mr. Sayers** voiced concerns of smaller cities, such as St. Anthony's, Idaho, who have struggled to fill critical public works positions due to the current restrictions and a limited local labor pool. He supported this effort to allow small cities to hire qualified candidates regardless of their relation to elected officials and under strict safeguards.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Den Hartog** asked Mr. Sayers if he knew how many city employees there were in towns of this size. **Mr. Sayers** did not know that exact number.

**MOTION:** **Senator Bernt** moved to send **H 686** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 727** **SEX CRIMES - Amends existing law to revise a provision regarding video voyeurism and to revise a penalty for disclosing explicit synthetic media.** **Senator Rabe** said this legislation would make the threat of sexual extortion a crime and enhanced penalties for instances where these crimes were committed against children. She emphasized the vulnerability of children and the need for them to be protected from exploitation and manipulation. **Senator Lakey** said that right now these crimes were misdemeanors, but he believed their nature suggested they should be felonies moving forward. **Representative Green** detailed how this was affecting Idaho communities and shared how these crimes correlated to an increase in victim suicides. She believed there were serious risks associated with this crime. **Senator Rabe** said this legislation was a straightforward effort to protect children in Idaho.

**TESTIMONY:** **Jeff Nye**, Chief of the Criminal Law Division for the Attorney General's Office, testified in support of **H 727**. He reiterated that this crime was a growing problem in Idaho communities. **Mr. Nye** supervised the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit and said the increased number of reports the Attorney General's Office received required them to start tracking sexual extortion in its own category.

**MOTION:** **Senator Toews** moved to send **H 727** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Den Hartog** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Toews** acknowledged the impact of these situations and encouraged parents to foster open dialogue and conversation with their children on this topic.

**VOICE VOTE:** The motion to send **H 727** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33647** **Pelican Population, Curtailment.** **Senator Harris** explained that pelicans were a protected migratory bird and as a result, the pelican population had grown. He said this resulted in a depletion in the fish supply, which had raised concerns among fisherman that this legislation aimed to address.

**MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 33647** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Ruchti** shared he would support the motion but said he was not confident it would fix the problem at hand.

**MOTION:** The motion to send **RS 33647** to print carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33616** **Idaho State Police K9 Kimber.** **Senator Den Hartog** explained this memorial would honor the loyalty and service of Idaho State Police K9 Kimber who recently passed away.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 33616** to print. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 9:24 a.m.

---

Senator Guthrie  
Chair

---

Abby Rowe  
Secretary