

MINUTES  
**HOUSE BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 19, 2026

**TIME:** 1:00 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:** None

**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 1:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Thompson** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19 and March 11 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

**S 1285aa:** **Chairman Redman** presented **S 1285aa**, explaining the legislation ensures a homeschool high school diploma is legally recognized as the equivalent of a standard high school diploma or GED for the purpose of obtaining various professional and occupational licenses in Idaho. As high school graduation is a requirement for many licenses, this ensures homeschoolers stand on an equal playing field when working to earn these qualifications. Any prospective licensees would remain required to meet the same required training and testing standards.

Committee inquired regarding interstate recognition and distinguishing recognition as non-public.

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

Testifying **in support** of **S 1285aa**, **Melissa Nash**, Homeschool Idaho, shared experiences demonstrating support for the legislation.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **S 1285aa** to the floor with **DO PASS** recommendation.

Speaking to the motion, members shared learning about the achievements of homeschoolers explaining barriers from the state preventing them from moving forward are wrong. Members also expressed the need to do more research.

**VOTING ON  
MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Redman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

**H 841:** **Rep. Wheeler** presented **H 841**, explaining the legislation establishes the Idaho Prior Authorization Reform Act to improve transparency, consistency, and timeliness in prior authorization processes used by health insurers and utilization review organizations. The bill requires insurers to publicly disclose prior authorization requirements and clinical criteria, implement standardized electronic prior authorization processes, and comply with defined time lines for standard and expedited determinations. The legislation establishes notification and appeal standards, requires appropriately qualified clinical reviewers, sets minimum validity periods for approvals, provides continuity of approvals when coverage changes, and prohibits improper revocation of prior authorizations. It establishes what entails a complete prior authorization submission.

Committee inquired regarding staffing needs, standardization for pre-authorization process, and costs.

Testifying **in support** of **H 841**, **Kenneth McClure** Idaho Medical Association, **Laura Miller**, and **Elizabeth Criner**, Idaho State Dental association shared experiences demonstrating their support for the legislation.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Cheatum** made a motion to send **H 841** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Chairman Redman** stated he was in doubt regarding the voice vote and called for a roll call vote on the motion. **Motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE, 9 NAY and 4 Absent/Excused.** Voting **in favor** of the motion: **Vice Chair Wheeler, Reps. Barbieri, Cheatum, Veile, and Berch.** Voting **in opposition** to the motion: **Chairman Redman, Reps. Palmer, Crane (12), Ehlers, Monks, Harris, Marmon, Rasor, Thompson. Reps. Crane (13), Cornilles, Cannon, Green were absent/excused.**

**S 1262:** **Rep. Ehlers** presented **S 1262**, explaining the legislation updates, clarifies, and simplifies one of the investment provisions in the insurance code. Idaho Code Section 41-735 allows insurance companies to invest funds in investments not otherwise specifically made eligible for investment in the insurance code and sets limits on the allowable percentage of those investments. This bill would maintain Idaho's miscellaneous investment allowance at 10 percent of an insurer's assets and remove the "lesser of" alternative limit of 75% of surplus excluding surplus notes.

Committee inquired regarding surplus notes definition.

Testifying **in support** of **S 1262**, **Jeff Neumeyer**, United Heritage Financial Group explained experiences demonstrating support for the legislation.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Rasor** made a motion to send **S 1262** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ehlers** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chairman Redman** put the committee at ease for one minute.

**H 898:** **Rep. Furniss** presented **H 898**, explaining the legislation shifts the administrative location of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which is required by federal law, from the Idaho State Historical Society to the new Office of Species, Minerals, and Energy Coordination, within the Office of the Governor. This will provide for better administrative efficiency, policy alignment, and improved coordination of permitting. The position of State Historical Preservation Officer is already appointed by the Governor under current law.

Committee inquired regarding staff, continuation of activity, ethics, continuation of service, financial information, matching funds, conflict of interest, organizational hierarchy, percentage of grant given to SHPO.

Testifying **in support** of **H 898**, **Paul Arrington**, Idaho Water Users Association explained experiences demonstrating their support for the legislation.

Testifying **in opposition** to **H 898**, **Frank Eld**, **Kayla McElreath**, **Alexis Matrone**, **Olivia Scuderi**, **Danial Sakura**, **Bob Reinhardt**, **Tony Edmondson** explained experiences demonstrating their opposition to the legislation.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **H 898** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Berch** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 898** in committee.

During discussion on the motions, members explained relocating SHPO is a good move and support the streamlining process, other members shared they conducted research about the merger and were confident it is a positive change, Members also noted while change is hard, they will support the original motion. Other members shared concern about the integrity of positions and a possible conflict of interest noting faster isn't necessarily better and will support the substitute motion.

**VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Substitute motion failed on voice vote.**

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Marmon, Berch, and Green** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Furniss** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

---

Representative Redman  
Chair

---

Michelle A Anderson  
Secretary