

MINUTES  
**HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, March 20, 2026

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Scott, Representatives Palmer, Holtzclaw, Skaug, Alfieri, Crane(12), Boyle, Dygert, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Bingham, Church, Haws

**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 Crane (13)** called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Dygert** made a motion to approve the minutes of Tuesday March 17, 2026, Wednesday March 18, 2026, and Thursday March 19, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 894:** **Rep. McCann** presented **H 894**. This legislation amends Idaho Code Section 74-203, to revise provisions regarding requirements for open public meetings. The bill adds a section to current law that no person attending the open meeting shall be prevented or prohibited from recording such meetings by audio, video, photographs by electronic, digital or other means.

**Ken Burgess**, Idaho Press Club; spoke in support of **H 894**.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Bingham** made a motion to send **H 894** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Palmer** requested he be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. McCann** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**HCR 35:** **Rep. Ehardt** did not present **HCR 35** which honors Idaho's athletes who represented the United States of America in the 2026 Winter Olympics.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to move **HCR 35** to the bottom of the agenda. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**S 1300:** **Senator Okuniewicz** presented **S 1300**. The directors for the Idaho Departments of Transportation, Fish and Game, and Parks and Recreation are neither subject to Senate confirmation nor gubernatorial appointment. This legislation provides for Senate advice and consent as well as gubernatorial appointment for the directors of these three agencies consistent with other state agencies.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **S 1300** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

A committee member had questions in regards to Senate appointed confirmations and process or laws in place to protect citizens of the State of Idaho.

**Thomas Dixon**, Member of ERN Harriman Family; **Nick Fasciano**, Idaho Wildlife Federation; **Michael Gibson**, Trout Unlimited; **Jeff Bitton**, President of Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association; **Charlie Lansche**, Friends of Harriman State Park; **Alison Brown**, Henry's Fork Wildfire Alliance; **Matt Borg**, Eastern Idaho Houndsmen Association; **spoke in opposition to S 1300.**

**Senator Okuniewicz** spoke on union structures, creation of agencies and federal funding, professional service requirements, payment practices, open process' on interviewing and screening, no safety nets for directors and pushing to solve conflict.

Committee members had comments and questions in regards to what problem is to be solved, autonomous function, exert more influence through political appointment process, need for a board of directors, oversight of the agencies and agencies appointments by the Governor and Senate.

Committee members had comments and questions in regards to benefits and costs, power of the executive branch, a balanced process and board members with staggered terms. Other committee members had comments and questions in regards to agency alignment with other agencies, legislative research, balance between urban and rural areas, and political affiliations creating problems rather than solving them.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE, and 6 NAY.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Crane (13), Scott, Palmer, Holtzclaw, Skaug, Alfieri, Crane (12), Boyle.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Dygert, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Bingham, Church, Haws.** **Rep. Pickett** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 888:**

**Rep. Palmer** presented **H 888**. This legislation places information technology procurement within the Office of Information Technology Services ("ITS"). ITS houses experts for IT services for the State of Idaho. Under this legislation, ITS will be required to consult with an agency head about the needs of the department, conduct an analysis of the IT equipment or service needed, and then procure the IT product or service for the department.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **H 888** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Rep. Palmer** called upon **Jeremy Chou** to answer questions in regards to no public process for vendor selection and the need of a third party technical analyst.

**John White**, Self; **Jason Kimball**, Nampa Police Department; spoke **in support** of **H 888**.

Committee members had comments and questions in regards to vendor selection, consultant verse consultation roles, provision in legislation for accepting gifts or favors, promotion of specific vendors, fiscal impact around technology services staffing, and third party for profit brokers evaluations.

**Chairman Crane (13)** dismissed **Rep. Ehardt** for her presentation of **HCR 35** due to the time constraint.

**Jeremy Chou** was called back for questions around 'direct vendor' definition, statute of limitations, suing third party brokers driven by statute of limitations, and charging a reasonable commission.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:**

**Chairman Crane (13)** stated he was in doubt regarding the voice vote and called for a roll call vote on the motion. **Motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE, 5 NAY and 1 Absent/Excused.** **Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Crane (13), Scott, Palmer, Holtzclaw, Alfieri, Boyle, Dygert, Pohanka.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Crane (12), Mickelsen, Bingham, Church, Haws.** **Rep. Skaug** was absent/excused. **Rep. Pickett** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Scott** made a motion to **HOLD HCR 35** subject to call of the chair. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:38 A.M.

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Representative Crane (13)  
Chair

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Liaza Richardson  
Secretary