

MINUTES  
**JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, March 23, 2026  
**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room C310  
**MEMBERS:** Senators Co-Chair Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Galloway, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow  
Representatives Co-Chair Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Petzke, Manwaring, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris, Green  
**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Senators Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart

**Co-Chair Tanner (14)** called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**Mr. Noah Peterson**, Analyst, LSO Budget & Policy, presented trailer legislation to **H 684**, which authorized reimbursement to sheriff's offices for the costs of returning offenders who absconded out of state. Total costs were estimated not to exceed \$200K, depending on the number of cases.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Manwaring** made a motion, seconded by **Rep. Furniss**, for FY 2027, for the Department of Correction, in the County and Out-of-State Placement Division, the addition of \$200,000 ongoing for operating expenditures from the General Fund.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by a total vote of 17 AYES, 1 NAY, 2 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Carlson, Galloway, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: Zuiderveld. Senators Absent/Excused: Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart. Representatives voting in favor of the motion: Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Petzke, Manwaring, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris, Green. Representatives voting in opposition to the motion: None.**

**Mr. Peterson** presented trailer legislation to **S 1226**, which added misdemeanor sexual battery and domestic violence to the list of offenses requiring the collection of DNA samples and thumbprint impressions. The Idaho State Police estimated an annual fiscal impact of \$63K, based on approximately 630 convictions per year at a cost of \$100 per conviction for supplies and DNA processing. No additional equipment or personnel were anticipated.

**MOTION:** **Sen. Wintrow** made a motion, seconded by **Rep. Green**, for FY 2027, for the Division of the Idaho State Police, the addition of \$63,000 ongoing for operating expenditures from the General Fund.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by a total vote of 18 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Galloway, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: None. Senators Absent/Excused: Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart. Representatives voting in favor of the motion: Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Petzke, Manwaring, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris, Green. Representatives voting in opposition to the motion: None.**

**Ms. Janica Bisharat**, Senior Analyst, LSO Budget & Policy, presented the revised FY 2027 enhancement budget for the Secretary of State. The original FY 2027 enhancement budget, **H 909**, failed on the House Floor. In this revised FY 2027 budget, the Secretary of State requested \$350K annually for the voter pamphlet required in even-numbered years when ballot measures appear. The budget request also included \$20K to cover audit team overtime and \$18.6K for ITS replacements.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Petzke** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Woodward**, beginning with the FY 2027 JFAC Program Maintenance Budget, to add \$350,000 onetime from the General Fund for a voter pamphlet; to include line item 2, transferring \$20,000 from operating expenditures to personnel costs; and to reduce the base budget ongoing by \$114,200. This motion included, for FY 2027, for the Office of the Secretary of State, an additional \$235,800 from the General Fund.

**Rep. Petzke** stated this budget was the same as the previously approved budget, except it included an ongoing 2% base reduction, as requested by the House Floor.

**Co-Chair Tanner (14)** put the committee at ease at 8:14 a.m.

**Co-Chair Tanner (14)** resumed the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
MOTION:**

**Motion carried by a total vote of 15 AYES, 3 NAYS, 2 ABSENT/EXCUSED.** **Senators voting in favor** of the motion: **Grow, Woodward, Cook, Carlson, Galloway, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow.** **Senators voting in opposition** to the motion: **Zuiderveld.** **Senators Absent/Excused: Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart.** **Representatives voting in favor** of the motion: **Tanner (14), Miller, Petzke, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris, Green.** **Representatives voting in opposition** to the motion: **Furniss, Manwaring.**

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:**

**Rep. Miller** requested and it was granted by unanimous consent, to reorder the agenda.

**Ms. Bisharat** presented a series of proposals from the Joint Legislative Millennium Committee to restore certain behavioral health programs for FY 2026 and FY 2027. She outlined programs including Peer Support Services for Mental Health Courts, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Statewide Peer Support Services, Skills Training and Development, transportation, the Half-Day Partial Hospital Program, and the Early Serious Mental Illness Program. The total state funding required was \$4.1M for FY 2026 and \$11.8M for FY 2027.

**Ms. Bisharat** identified three potential funding sources: the Millennium Income Fund, the Opioid Settlement Fund, and salary/internal savings within the Department of Health and Welfare budget, noting the proposal was intended as onetime funding and not for ongoing use. The Joint Millennium Fund Committee reviewed the request and recommended \$6M from the Millennium Income Fund to restore ACT and Peer Support Services for FY 2027, contingent on \$5.8M in opioid settlement funds being appropriated. If the opioid funds were not approved, the committee recommended approximately \$4.2M from the Millennium Income Fund instead. The committee emphasized Millennium Funds are primarily intended for youth substance abuse prevention but recognized the importance of restoring these critical programs.

**Ms. Alex Williamson**, Senior Analyst, LSO Budget & Policy, presented the Millennium Fund recommendation to restore funding for ACT, Peer Support, and other programs in the Divisions of Medicaid and Mental Health Services for the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW).

**Ms. Williamson** presented two options for restoring behavioral health programs. Option one proposed restoring all programs, including Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Peer Support Services, Skills Training and Development, transportation for community-based providers, the Half-Day Partial Hospital Program, and the Early Serious Mental Illness Program, using a combination of Millennium Income Funds, state-directed opioid settlement funds, and federal matching dollars. Option two proposed restoring only ACT and Peer Support Services, excluding the additional programs.

**ORIGINAL MOTION:**

**Rep. Mitchell** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Zuiderveld**, for FY 2027, for the Department of Health and Welfare, the onetime addition of \$4,619,000 from the Millennium Income Fund, \$5,558,000 from the State-Directed Opioid Settlement Fund, and \$20,525,000 from federal funds, for the restoration of Assertive Community Treatment and Peer Support Services, for a total increase of \$30,702,000.

**Rep. Mitchell** emphasized ACT and Peer Support Services were critical programs needing restoration.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Sen. Cook** made a substitute motion, seconded by **Rep. Furniss**, for FY 2027, for the Department of Health and Welfare, the onetime addition of \$6,000,000 from the Millennium Income Fund, \$5,558,000 from the State-Directed Opioid Settlement Fund, and \$23,094,000 from federal funds, for the restoration of Assertive Community Services, Peer Support Services, Skills Training and Development, and associated programs, for a total increase of \$34,652,000.

**Sen. Cook** stressed the importance of restoring key behavioral health programs. He stated ACT and Peer Support Services were essential and worked best together, while Skills Training was also important. **Sen. Cook** noted transportation funding was needed for rural areas so ACT teams could reach clients. The Half-Day Partial Hospital Program allowed shorter, cost-effective treatment sessions. Early serious mental illness programs targeted ages 15–30 to provide early care and prevent long-term problems.

**Rep. Furniss** noted sheriffs explained the lack of mental health support programs forced law enforcement to place individuals in jail, increasing costs and potentially raising property taxes.

**Sen. Cook** added his substitute motion did not use the General Fund; many legislators had worked to find alternate fund sources for these programs.

**Co-Chair Tanner (14)** pointed out using the Millennium Fund and state-directed settlement funds would only cover programs through 2027. He cautioned when setting FY 2028 budgets, funding would likely need to come from the General Fund and warned against assuming continued dedicated funding.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:**

**Substitute motion failed by a total vote of 9 AYES, 9 NAYS, 2 ABSENT/EXCUSED.** **Senators voting in favor** of the motion: **Grow, Woodward, Cook, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow.** **Senators voting in opposition** to the motion: **Carlson, Zuiderveld, Galloway.** **Senators Absent/Excused:** **Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart.** **Representatives voting in favor** of the motion: **Furniss, Petzke, Manwaring, Green.** **Representatives voting in opposition** to the motion: **Tanner (14), Miller, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris.**

The majority having failed to vote in the affirmative in the House Appropriations Committee, the substitute motion failed.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
ORIGINAL  
MOTION:**

**Original motion carried by a total vote of 16 AYES, 2 NAYS, 2 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: Galloway. Senators Absent/Excused: Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart. Representatives voting in favor of the motion: Tanner (14), Miller, Petzke, Manwaring, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris, Green. Representatives voting in opposition to the motion: Furniss.**

**Ms. Williamson** presented a section of language associated with the trailer legislation. The language directed the department to identify savings within budgeted programs and develop a request for JFAC as part of the FY 2028 budget to address ongoing funding needs.

**Rep. Manwaring** stated he requested the language to identify salary savings and additional savings to restore reduced provider payments.

**Co-Chair Tanner (14)** put the committee at ease at 8:39 a.m.

**Co-Chair Tanner (14)** resumed the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

**Co-Chair Tanner (14)** clarified the language directed the department to identify potential savings and, instead of returning those funds to the General Fund, apply them to restore the 4% reductions in provider payments.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:**

**Rep. Manwaring** requested unanimous consent to adopt the following language:

**LANGUAGE:**

SECTION \_\_. For fiscal year 2027, the department is requested to identify savings from any budgeted program and request the Legislature to restore Medicaid provider payments with the identified savings.

**Rep. Price** objected.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Manwaring** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Ward-Engelking**, to adopt the following language:

**LANGUAGE:**

SECTION \_\_. For fiscal year 2027, the department is requested to identify savings from any budgeted program and request the Legislature to restore Medicaid provider payments with the identified savings.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
MOTION:**

**Motion failed by a total vote of 12 AYES, 6 NAYS, 2 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Carlson, Galloway, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: Zuiderveld. Senators Absent/Excused: Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart. Representatives voting in favor of the motion: Miller, Furniss, Petzke, Manwaring, Green. Representatives voting in opposition to the motion: Tanner (14), Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris.**

The majority having failed to vote in the affirmative in the House Appropriations Committee, the motion failed.

**Ms. Williamson** presented another section of language related to the trailer legislation allowing the Department of Health and Welfare to transfer salary savings and other available 2026 appropriations into the Divisions of Medicaid and Mental Health Services to cover the initial costs of launching these programs.

**UNANIMOUS  
CONSENT  
REQUEST:**

**Rep. Mitchell** requested and it was granted by unanimous consent, to adopt the following language:

**LANGUAGE:** SECTION \_\_. Exemptions from Program Transfer Limitations for Behavioral Health Programs. Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary, the Department of Health and Welfare is hereby exempted from the provisions of Section 67-3511(2), Idaho Code, allowing unlimited transfers into the Basic Medicaid Plan Program and the Adult Mental Health Program from other programs within the department for all moneys appropriated to it for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, for the purpose of funding Assertive Community Treatment and Peer Support Services.

**Ms. Bisharat** presented the recommendation to fund Mental Health Courts within the Judicial Branch, with onetime \$250K from the Opioid Settlement Fund to restore Peer Support Services for Idaho’s Mental Health Courts in FY 2027. These courts, which provide alternatives to incarceration for high-risk participants with mental health and substance abuse challenges, had lost Peer Support Services in December 2025. The funding was intended to maintain this critical component of the Courts’ evidence-based model.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Manwaring** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Wintrow**, for FY 2027, for the Judicial Branch, in the Court Operations Division, the onetime addition of \$250,000 from the Opioid Settlement Fund to provide Peer Support Services for Mental Health Courts.

**Rep. Manwaring** clarified the Courts had repurposed other funds to provide these services through June 30, 2026; the current request would ensure funding continued into FY 2027.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by a total vote of 16 AYES, 2 NAYS, 2 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Carlson, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: Zuiderveld, Galloway. Senators Absent/Excused: Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart. Representatives voting in favor of the motion: Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Petzke, Manwaring, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris, Green. Representatives voting in opposition to the motion: None.**

**Ms. Bisharat** presented language directing the use of the Opioid Settlement Fund, reviewed by the Attorney General’s office. Under the settlement agreements, the State may use a limited portion of the funds for purposes unrelated to opioid use disorder. The language clarified the fund could be used on a onetime basis to support the programs and services under discussion.

**Co-Chair Tanner (14)** put the committee at ease at 8:55 a.m.

**Co-Chair Tanner (14)** resumed the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST:** **Rep. Mitchell** requested and it was granted by unanimous consent, to accept the following language:

**LANGUAGE:** OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND USAGE: The Legislature finds and declares that Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Peer Support Services serve the overarching purposes of the National Opioid Settlement even though not every person ACT and Peer Support Services serves suffers from opioid use disorder (OUD). In a time of fiscal exigency, every dollar matters to ensure ACT and Peer Support Services remain viable. Therefore, in accordance with provisions in the opioid settlement agreements that allow the State to use a limited percentage of settlement funds for purposes not directly related to OUD, and notwithstanding the provisions of section 57-825, Idaho Code, or any other provision of law to the contrary, of the amounts appropriated in Section \_ from the state-directed opioid settlement fund, up to [amount] may be used for ACT and Peer Support Services participants who face substance abuse disorder or mental health conditions (SUD/MH) without co-occurring OUD as those terms are used in Exhibit E, Schedule B, of the settlement agreements.

**Mr. Keith Bybee**, Division Manager, LSO Budget & Policy, presented trailer legislation to **HCR 30**, which had passed both chambers and been adopted by the Legislature. **HCR 30**, related to 2025's **H 345**, facilitated Idaho's transition to Medicaid managed care and authorized the Legislature to hire a contractor to oversee implementation. Mr. Bybee noted this year, the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) contracted for transition oversight and the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, the Department of Administration hired staff to support implementation and contract management, and the Legislature established an ongoing Medicaid review panel.

The motion before the committee would provide the appropriation for the Legislature's contractor to oversee implementation.

**MOTION:** **Sen. Cook** made a motion, seconded by **Rep. Furniss**, for FY 2026, for the Legislature, the onetime addition of \$200,000 from the General Fund for Medicaid Legislative Review Panel Consultant costs and included reappropriation authority into FY 2027.

**Sen. Wintrow** stated her belief the proposal duplicated existing services and was unnecessary in a tight budget year. She had opposed **H 345**, citing the additional costs managed care had imposed on the State and noted this measure would further increase expenses.

**Co-Chair Tanner (14)** explained the proposal came from the House Concurrent Resolution and the Joint Medicaid Review Panel. DHW had spent over \$1.5M on a consultant, using the same firm supporting the LUMA implementation. He emphasized the Legislature needed its own oversight on such a large contract. The language was adjusted to allow more time due to issues with DHW's MMIS system and ongoing lawsuits, ensuring the Legislature could maintain visibility and work with the consultant.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION:** **Motion carried by a total vote of 13 AYES, 4 NAYS, 3 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Carlson. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: Zuiderveld, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators Absent/Excused: Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Galloway. Representatives voting in favor of the motion: Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Petzke, Manwaring, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris. Representatives voting in opposition to the motion: Green.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

---

Representative Tanner (14)  
Chair

---

Alyson Jackson  
Secretary