

MINUTES
JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 2026
TIME: 12:00 P.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:** None

Co-Chair Tanner (14) called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

Mr. Christopher Lehosit, Senior Analyst, LSO Budget & Policy, provided a refresher on the General Fund Daily Update. He highlighted the total estimated expenditures figure, which reflected original appropriations, carryover funds, and supplemental decisions made during the legislative session. He identified total JFAC action for FY 2027—\$5.62B—and described its role within the broader budget. He also referenced cash transfers under consideration and noted a slight decrease of approximately 0.04 percent compared to the prior year.

Mr. Lehosit concluded with a summary of legislation affecting the State budget, explaining most bills impacted appropriations while one affected revenue, and noted most fiscal impacts for 2027 had been incorporated into the budget figures, with a few items still pending. In response to a committee question, he explained the General Fund Budget Monitor showed revenues running \$89.5M below the legislative target, resulting in an estimated ending balance of approximately negative \$44.1M for FY 2026, with only minor adjustments remaining.

Co-Chair Tanner (14) noted April represented a critical month for revenue collections, with outcomes uncertain due to volatility—particularly in corporate income—and explained final clarity would not be available until the May report. He stated adjustments to cash transfers were being considered to preserve flexibility in the event revenues fell short.

Mr. Keith Bybee, Division Manager, LSO Budget & Policy Analysis, presented the motions for cash transfers. He referenced explanations for the cash transfers in the JFAC meeting earlier in the day.

MOTION: **Rep. Bruce** made a motion, seconded by **Rep. Miller**, to adopt the following language, which appropriates and transfers \$5,803,500 from the Permanent Building Fund to the Legislative Account:

LANGUAGE: LEGISLATIVE TRANSFER REDUCED 4% FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026. There is hereby appropriated and the Office of the State Controller shall transfer \$5,803,500 from the Permanent Building Fund that is obligated for remodeling legislative space to the Legislative Account as soon as practicable. Upon passage and approval of this act, and after the cash transfer in this section has occurred, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall direct the Office of the State Controller to limit the amount transferred from the General Fund to the Legislative Account pursuant to Section 67-451 (2), Idaho Code, to \$8,170,600 for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 19 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: None. Senators Absent/Excused: Galloway. 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.**

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST: **Rep. Bruce** requested and it was granted by unanimous consent, to adopt the following language, which reduces the General Fund transfer to the Legislative Account by 5% in FY 2027:

LANGUAGE: LEGISLATIVE TRANSFER REDUCED 5% FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027. On July 1, 2026, and after the cash transfer in Section _ of this act has occurred, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall direct the Office of the State Controller to limit the amount transferred from the General Fund to the Legislative Account pursuant to Section 67-451 (2), Idaho Code, to \$8,085,500 for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion, seconded by **Rep. Bruce**, for the appropriation and transfer of \$13,000,000 from the Idaho Broadband Fund to the General Fund for FY 2026.

LANGUAGE: GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026. There is hereby appropriated and the Office of the State Controller shall transfer \$13,000,000 from the Idaho Broadband Fund to the General Fund as soon as practicable for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 19 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: None. Senators Absent/Excused: Galloway. 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.**

MOTION: **Sen. Carlson** made a motion, seconded by **Rep. Miller**, for the appropriation and transfer of the remaining balances of the inactive subaccounts of the School District Building Account to the General Fund for FY 2026.

LANGUAGE: GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026. There is hereby appropriated and the Office of the State Controller shall transfer the remaining balances from the School District Building Account with the exception of the Public Schools Facilities Cooperative Fund subaccount to the General Fund as soon as practicable for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 19 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: None. Senators Absent/Excused: Galloway. 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.**

MOTION: **Sen. Bjerke (Bjerke)** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Carlson**, to adopt the following language transferring moneys from the 27th Payroll Fund to the General Fund, if necessary.

LANGUAGE: GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026. It is the intent of the Legislature that if General Fund revenues for fiscal year 2026 do not meet the legislative target of \$5,510,100,000; and the remaining cash balance in the General Fund is insufficient to cover revenue shortfalls for the remainder of fiscal year 2026; and notwithstanding the provisions of Section 57-826, Idaho Code, the State Board of Examiners is authorized to direct the Office of the State Controller, on or after May 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, to transfer sufficient funds from the Twenty-Seventh Payroll Fund to the General Fund for the purpose of balancing the state budget. Such transfer is considered an appropriation of moneys.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 16 AYES, 3 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators Absent/Excused: 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.**

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Carlson**, for the appropriation and transfer of the interest earnings from the Budget Stabilization Fund to the General Fund in FY 2027 and to adopt the following language:

LANGUAGE: GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027. Notwithstanding Section 57-814, Idaho Code, and any other provision of law to the contrary, the Office of the State Controller shall transfer interest earnings generated from the fund balance in the Budget Stabilization Fund during the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to the General Fund on June 30, 2027, or as soon thereafter as practicable. Such amount shall be confirmed with the Legislative Services Office, division of Budget and Policy Analysis, and only be used to ensure a minimum General Fund ending cash balance of \$150,000,000 as determined by the legislative record.

Rep. Petzke reiterated his opposition to the interest earnings transfers and expressed surprise at their reintroduction, noting prior discussions had indicated they would not occur. He remained concerned with the \$150M threshold, which could trigger transfers even under a balanced budget, and questioned redirecting interest from the General Fund given the Legislature's ability to adjust the budget in a future session.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 14 AYES, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators Absent/Excused: Galloway. Representatives voting in favor of the motion: Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris. Representatives voting in opposition to the motion: Petzke, Manwaring, Green.**

MOTION: **Rep. Bruce** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Carlson**, for the appropriation and transfer of the interest earnings from the Public Education Stabilization Fund to the General Fund in FY 2027 and to adopt the following language:

LANGUAGE: GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027. Notwithstanding Section 33-907, Idaho Code, and any other provision of law to the contrary, the Office of the State Controller shall transfer interest earnings generated from the fund balance in the Public Education Stabilization Fund during the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to the General Fund on June 30, 2027, or as soon thereafter as practicable. Such amount shall be confirmed with the Legislative Services Office, division of Budget and Policy Analysis, and only be used to ensure a minimum General Fund ending cash balance of \$150,000,000 as determined by the legislative record.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 14 AYES, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators Absent/Excused: Galloway. Representatives voting in favor of the motion: Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris. Representatives voting in opposition to the motion: Petzke, Manwaring, Green.**

MOTION: **Rep. Miller** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Bjerke (Bjerke)**, for the appropriation and transfer of the interest earnings from the Water Pollution Control Fund to the General Fund in FY 2027 and to adopt the following language:

LANGUAGE: GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027. Notwithstanding Section 39-3630, Idaho Code, and any other provision of law to the contrary, the Office of the State Controller shall transfer interest earnings generated from the fund balance in the Water Pollution Control Fund during the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to the General Fund on June 30, 2027, or as soon thereafter as practicable. Such amount shall be confirmed with the Legislative Services Office, division of Budget and Policy Analysis, and only be used to ensure a minimum General Fund ending cash balance of \$150,000,000 as determined by the legislative record.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 14 AYES, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators Absent/Excused: Galloway. Representatives voting in favor of the motion: Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris. Representatives voting in opposition to the motion: Petzke, Manwaring, Green.**

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Hart**, for the appropriation and transfer of the interest earnings from the Permanent Building Fund to the General Fund in FY 2027 and to adopt the following language:

LANGUAGE: GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027. Notwithstanding Section 57-1108, Idaho Code, and any other provision of law to the contrary, the Office of the State Controller shall transfer interest earnings generated from the fund balance in the Permanent Building Fund during the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to the General Fund on June 30, 2027, or as soon thereafter as practicable. Such amount shall be confirmed with the Legislative Services Office, division of Budget and Policy Analysis, and only be used to ensure a minimum General Fund ending cash balance of \$150,000,000 as determined by the legislative record.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 14 AYES, 5 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED.** **Senators voting in favor** of the motion: **Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld.** **Senators voting in opposition** to the motion: **Ward-Engelking, Wintrow.** **Senators Absent/Excused: Galloway.** **Representatives voting in favor** of the motion: **Tanner (14), Miller, Furniss, Mitchell, Price, Bruce, Harris.** **Representatives voting in opposition** to the motion: **Petzke, Manwaring, Green.**

In response to a committee question, **Mr. Bybee** explained the statute governing the Strategic Initiatives Fund specified 60% of the fund balance was allocated to Idaho Transportation projects, while the remaining 40% was administered by the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council.

MOTION: **Rep. Green** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Ward-Engelking**, for the appropriation and transfer of the interest earnings from the American Rescue Plan Act—State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Strategic Initiatives Fund in fiscal year 2026 and to adopt the following language:

LANGUAGE: STRATEGIC INITIATIVES FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026. There is hereby appropriated and the Office of the State Controller shall transfer 50% of the interest earnings generated in Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026 to the American Rescue Plan Act—State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund or \$32,877,300, whichever is greater, to the Strategic Initiatives Fund as soon as practicable for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The amount shall be confirmed with the Legislative Services Office, division of Budget and Policy Analysis.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 19 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED.** **Senators voting in favor** of the motion: **Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow.** **Senators voting in opposition** to the motion: **None.** **Senators Absent/Excused: Galloway.** **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.**

MOTION: **Sen. Wintrow** made a motion, seconded by **Rep. Manwaring**, for the appropriation and transfer of the interest earnings from the American Rescue Plan Act—State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Fire Suppression Deficiency Account in FY 2026 and to adopt the following language:

LANGUAGE: FIRE SUPPRESSION DEFICIENCY ACCOUNT CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026. There is hereby appropriated and the Office of the State Controller shall transfer 50% of the interest earnings generated in Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026 to the American Rescue Plan Act—State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund or \$32,877,200, whichever is greater, to the Fire Suppression Deficiency Account as soon as practicable for the period July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The amount shall be confirmed with the Legislative Services Office, division of Budget and Policy Analysis.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 19 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: None. Senators Absent/Excused: Galloway. 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.**

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion, seconded by **Rep. Price**, for the appropriation and transfer of the interest earnings from the Strategic Initiatives State Fund to the General Fund in FY 2027 and to adopt the following language:

LANGUAGE: GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027. Notwithstanding Section 40-719, Idaho Code, and any other provision of law to the contrary, the Office of the State Controller shall transfer interest earnings generated from the fund balance in the Strategic Initiatives State Fund during the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to the General Fund on June 30, 2027, or as soon thereafter as practicable. Such amount shall be confirmed with the Legislative Services Office, division of Budget and Policy Analysis, and only be used to ensure a minimum General Fund ending cash balance of \$150,000,000 as determined by the legislative record.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by a total vote of 18 AYES, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT/EXCUSED. Senators voting in favor of the motion: Grow, Woodward, Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow. Senators voting in opposition to the motion: None. Senators Absent/Excused: 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.**

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion, seconded by **Sen. Hart**, for the appropriation and transfer of the interest earnings from the Strategic Initiatives Local Fund to the General Fund in FY 2027 and to adopt the following language.

LANGUAGE: GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027. Notwithstanding Section 40-719, Idaho Code, and any other provision of law to the contrary, the Office of the State Controller shall transfer interest earnings generated from the fund balance in the Strategic Initiatives Local Fund during the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, to the General Fund on June 30, 2027, or as soon thereafter as practicable. Such amount shall be confirmed with the Legislative Services Office, division of Budget and Policy Analysis, and only be used to ensure a minimum General Fund ending cash balance of \$150,000,000 as determined by the legislative record.

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

MOTION: **Sen. Hart** made a motion, seconded by **Rep. Harris**, for the appropriation and transfer of the balance from the Strategic Initiatives Local Grant Fund to the General Fund in FY 2027 and to adopt the following language:

LANGUAGE: GENERAL FUND CASH TRANSFER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027. There is hereby appropriated and the Office of the State Controller shall transfer the remaining balance in the Strategic Initiatives Local Grant Fund to the General Fund for the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Such amount shall be not less than \$4,150,200 and shall be confirmed with the Legislative Services Office, division of Budget and Policy Analysis, and only be used to ensure a minimum General Fund ending cash balance of \$150,000,000 as determined by the legislative record.

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

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Representative Tanner (14)
Chair

Alyson Jackson
Secretary