

MINUTES  
**SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 26, 2026

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

**PLACE:** Room WW55

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

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**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) at 8:00 a.m.

**RS 33695** **International Money Transmissions.** **Senator Anthon** explained that this legislation would address illegal immigration and its economic impact on Idaho.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 33695** to print. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33831** **U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.** **Senator Anthon** explained this legislation required Idaho's local and county law enforcement agencies to apply to participate in agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

**MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 33831** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33832** **Idaho Refugee and Illegal Alien Accountability Act.** **Senator Anthon** said that this legislation ensured transparency and accountability in regard to Idaho refugee programs. He believed this clarified provisions already established in the Idaho ICE Act.

**MOTION:** **Senator Toews** moved to send **RS 33832** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 33835** **Federal Immigration Detainer.** **Senator Den Hartog** explained that this legislation would establish a process for incarcerated individuals to be released to federal immigration authorities if they had an immigration detainer. She noted that based on an estimate received from the Idaho Department of Corrections this could possibly save Idaho \$3.5 million.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 33835** to print. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**S 1430** **FIREARMS – Amends existing law to revise a provision regarding preemption of firearms regulation, to provide a penalty, and to provide for a cause of action.** **Senator Keyser** shared that this legislation reinforced existing law that prevented Idaho cities and counties from creating their own gun regulations that conflicted with state law. He detailed penalties and methods of enforcement and emphasized this would protect Idahoan's Second Amendment right. **Senator Lakey** said that this clarified state authority over firearm regulation by adding a structured enforcement process. He noted that this would maintain current legal exceptions by allowing cities, counties, and institutions to implement certain existing restrictions.

**DISCUSSION:** **Vice Chairman Bernt** referred to subsections six and seven of this legislation and asked Senator Lakey how he believed these fit together. **Senator Lakey** said that the combination of these two subsections reiterated the seriousness of violations. **Senator Ruchti** asked Senator Lakey why current exceptions such as those for college campuses and firearm discharge limitations within city limits remained unchanged. **Senator Lakey** said the exceptions apply to those rules that were expressly authorized in state statutes.

**TESTIMONY:** **Aoibheann Cline**, representing the National Rifle Associations Institute for Legislative Action, and **Greg Pruett**, of Rigby, Idaho, testified in support of **S 1430** for the following reasons:

- Belief that this would deter violations;
- Reinforcement of constitutional protections given in the Second Amendment;
- The addition of an enforcement mechanism to improve accountability;
- Addressed a long history of violations and lack of enforcement tools.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Keyser** closed the discussion by emphasizing that this preserved and protected constitutional rights by holding the government responsible for violations.

**MOTION:** **Senator Toews** moved to send **S 1430** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 894** **OPEN MEETINGS - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding requirements for open public meetings to permit recording of such meetings.** **Senator Harris** explained this legislation protected the right of the public to record and document open meetings. He said this would prevent the implementation of restrictions by governing bodies and included specific exceptions, for example, some meetings held by the Department of Corrections, Juvenile Corrections, or the Commission of Pardons and Parole.

**MOTION:** **Senator Bernt** moved to send **H 894** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 932** **STATE GUN - States findings of the Legislature and provides for an advisory question regarding the state gun of Idaho to be placed on the ballot before the voters.** **Senator Harris** explained this legislation would allow for Idahoans to vote on a state gun which would create a symbolic and participatory measure tied to civic engagement. He detailed several firearms that voters could choose from and shared the significant role they had played in U.S history, the Military, and western expansion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Shippy** asked Senator Harris which one he believed might win. **Senator Harris** said he couldn't choose but that they were all symbolic and solid choices. **Senator Toews** commended the amount of research and time the sponsor spent on this legislation.

**MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **H 932** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**HCR 36** **NATIONAL GUARD - States findings of the Legislature and expresses support and commendation for the Idaho National Guard.** **Senator Den Hartog** explained this legislation honored the Idaho National Guard and highlighted key upgrades currently being implemented to allow them to be more mobile and adaptable.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Bernt** moved to send **HCR 36** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Ruchti** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Adams** shared that because of his personal military experience, he was hesitant to support modernization efforts, especially for aircraft, because of their unique capabilities that had historically worked well for Idaho.

**VOICE VOTE:** The motion to send **HCR 36** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation carried by **voice vote**.

**H 888** **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the powers and duties of the Office of Information Technology Services.** **Senator Den Hartog** explained that this legislation would move the procurement of information technology services under the Office of Information Technology Services (OITS). She said this would improve speed and increase efficiency by allowing the State to keep up with rapidly-changing technology. **Senator Den Hartog** said that while this centralized the system, this would maintain collaboration efforts between agencies. **Jeremy Chou**, representing Syringa Networks, explained that this provided flexible procurement options by allowing OITS to handle situations internally, through a third-party broker, or through the existing state purchasing system. He also noted that this would have a low fiscal impact.

**DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Guthrie** asked Mr. Chou what the definition of "reasonable commission" would be in regard to this legislation. **Mr. Chou** said that "reasonable commission" was determined by what would be considered fair in the current market which could often vary due to procurement type and size. **Senator Ruchti** asked Mr. Chou how this legislation could prevent a broker from sending the government entity a specific vendor at a pre-arranged commission. **Mr. Chou** highlighted that this legislation specified that the third-party broker had to have a fiduciary duty, not just a contractual obligation, and now, they would have a statutory obligation. **Vice Chairman Bernt** asked Mr. Chou to explain in greater detail how the Idaho Department of Administration currently used this procurement process. **Mr. Chou** said he had not seen the Department of Administration utilize a brokerage system. **Chairman Guthrie** asked Mr. Chou about how open the process had to be so different companies could engage. **Mr. Chou** said that this legislation ensured the process was very open. **Vice Chairman Bernt** asked Mr. Chou why they did not set a cap on how much brokers could receive or earn like they did in other lines of business. **Mr. Chou** said a discussion surrounding this idea was had but ultimately they decided that reasonable safeguards in respect to the Office were satisfactory rather than deciding on a flat rate.

**TESTIMONY:** **Jason Kimball**, representing the Nampa Police Department, testified in favor of **H 888**. **Mr. Kimball** supported the idea of this transition because it would ensure technical experts drove technology decisions rather than vendors. He said this ensured a system of unbiased and efficient purchasing with proved cost savings.

**TESTIMONY:** **Alberto Gonzalez**, representing the Office of Information Technology Services, testified as neutral to **H 888**. **Mr. Gonzalez** acknowledged possible benefits of this legislation but voiced concern about the capacity of OITS to carry out this change. He highlighted the cost savings this could create but acknowledged the need for safeguards to maintain fairness.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Adams** asked Mr. Gonzalez what his recommendation would be to make this legislation better. **Mr. Gonzalez** said adding options that the OITS could choose from would increase competition and reduce cost. He shared that as long as cost and quality of service factors were visible and transparent, the OITS could create policy around it. **Vice Chairman Bernt** asked if that would be done in code or through administrative rule. **Mr. Gonzalez** said it could be done either way. **Senator Toews** asked for clarification on the language in this bill that referred to reasonable rules and asked what kinds of rules could be created under this. **Mr. Gonzalez** explained that he didn't know but encouraged Senator Toews to follow up with OITS if this legislation passed.

**Senator Den Hartog** closed the discussion by emphasizing the need for timely procurement as it was essential to keep state systems efficient. She said that administrative rules could address concerns raised about managing workload, fairness, and vendor processes. **Mr. Chou** echoed Senator Den Hartog's statement and addressed concerns brought up by the Committee. **Chairman Guthrie** asked Mr. Chou if he was suggesting that additional costs could come from somewhere else, and if so, where. **Mr. Chou** explained that they were reimbursed from the department they were procuring services for. He reiterated that OITS could adopt reasonable rules in response to this legislation which would ensure a formal, transparent, and legislatively-approved process. **Mr. Chou** said that between the rulemaking process and the IT Authority's oversight, OITS had both the legal framework and structure to manage IT procurement efficiently. **Vice Chairman Bernt** reiterated that this legislation allowed rulemaking that could address issues still of concern to the Committee.

**MOTION:** **Senator Toews** moved to send **H 888** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Anthon** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

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Senator Guthrie  
Chair

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Abby Rowe  
Secretary