

MINUTES
SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 27, 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) to order at 8:00 a.m.

H 835 **STATE BUDGET - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding expenditures made pursuant to certain funds that are not cognizable.** **Representative Jason Monks** explained that this legislation aimed to regulate non-cognizable funds by adding clear oversight and rules. He said that non-cognizable funds were considered money received by state agencies after the legislative session from non-state sources. **Representative Monks** said that this proposed a \$10 million annual cap on non-cognizable fund spending.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **H 835** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment. **Senator Adams** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Honoring our Page - Drew Brown.** **Mr. Brown** expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be a Senate Page and work closely with the Committee. He was grateful for this hands-on learning opportunity and enjoyed being able to see a glimpse into what goes on in the Legislature behind the scenes. **Mr. Brown** shared that after his time here he would graduate high school and serve a mission for his church. He said when he returned, he planned to attend college and pursue a career in law enforcement.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Guthrie** asked Mr. Brown where he hoped to serve his mission. **Mr. Brown** said he hoped he would be called to another country like Peru or Italy. **Senator Harris** asked Mr. Brown what type of law enforcement he hoped to pursue in the future. **Mr. Brown** said he would like to start off as a deputy and work his way up to the Federal Bureau of Investigation or a Special Weapons and Tactics team. **Senator Anthon** commended Mr. Brown for his desire to pursue law enforcement and believed more young people should think about that career path as well. **Mr. Brown** asked Senator Harris what he believed his greatest achievement was in all his years at the Legislature. **Senator Harris** told him about how his county in Bear Lake, Idaho needed a courthouse and he was able to work on legislation to get them a new courthouse. **Senator Harris** also told Mr. Brown about legislation he worked on with Chairman Guthrie that allowed for Idahoans to register a next of kin with the DMV which helped in death or injury notifications. He shared he was very proud of the positive impact those two instances had on Idaho. **Chairman Guthrie** commended Senator Harris for his efforts and noted that he always carried tough legislation that really made a difference.

- RS 33834** **Rats, Invasive Species.** **Representative John Gannon** explained that this legislation addressed a growing rat infestation problem in the Treasure Valley. He said there had been a lack of local government action and this would explicitly give counties and cities the authority to handle this problem as they saw fit.
- MOTION:** **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 33834** to print. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion to send **RS 33834** to print carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 33839** **Administrative Rules.** **Senator Anthon** said this was a concurrent resolution that approved all pending administrative rules before the Senate.
- MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send **RS 33839** to print. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- H 930** **CAMPAIGN FINANCE - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the duties of political treasurers.** **Senator Harris** said this legislation required political candidates to keep campaign money in a designated checking account and prohibited the mixing of personal and campaign funds. He explained this would impose restrictions on how campaign funds were invested and implement rules for candidate loans. **Representative Lori McCann** shared she worked through several versions of this legislation and received input from the Secretary of State's Office to ensure it provided clarity, was accurate, and consistent with existing law. She clarified that if a candidate provided personal loans to their campaign that the money must actually be transferred into a designated campaign account for accurate reporting purposes.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Adams** pointed out language that would allow candidates to invest their campaign funds and asked if candidates currently couldn't do that. **Representative McCann** said that very few candidates did, but that it was currently allowed by federal law. **Chairman Guthrie** asked who the beneficiary of the interest would be in the case that a candidate invested campaign funds. **Representative McCann** asked the Idaho Secretary of State, Phil McGrane, to answer this on her behalf. **Secretary McGrane** said the interest would stay within the campaign account and noted this legislation's purpose was to close loopholes and align with broader campaign finance reform. **Senator Shippy** asked Secretary McGrane if the provision in this legislation regarding the political treasurer keeping all accounts current within seven days of action was reflected in current law. **Secretary McGrane** said yes, that was currently the requirement.
- Senator Ruchti** said the requirement to actually put money in an account if one said they did seemed like common sense, and asked if there was a system in place already to verify that. **Secretary McGrane** said currently there was nothing that prevented candidates from co-mingling money. **Senator Shippy** asked Secretary McGrane to specify what was in this legislation that was not in current law. **Secretary McGrane** said specific details about candidate investments was new language. **Senator Shippy** asked if the requirement to deposit money within seven days of receiving it was in current law or just this new legislation. **Secretary McGrane** said that was a requirement of current law. **Senator Toews** said the biggest change as he saw it was that a checking account had to be maintained and that one couldn't cash checks and pay that way. **Secretary McGrane** said his comment was accurate and that the intention behind the change was to allow for cleaner administrative records and reporting.
- MOTION:** **Senator Bernt** moved to send **H 930** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Adams** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Toews** said that he could not support the motion because he didn't believe this was necessary to put into law as it was already common practice. **Senator Shippy** voiced the same concern as Senator Toews and expressed he would not support the motion. **Vice Chairman Bernt** said that although most legislators did the right thing and followed the rules, there were some who often didn't, and this legislation made sure there were explicit guidelines in place. **Senator Adams** said he understood why this legislation felt like it could be common sense but believed there should be laws in place to fix the behavior and practices of those who did not play by the rules.

VOICE VOTE: The motion to send **H 930** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation carried by **voice vote** with **Senators Den Hartog, Toews,** and **Shippy** voting nay.

HCR 35 **2026 WINTER OLYMPICS - States findings of the Legislature and recognizes all the Idaho athletes who participated in the Olympics. Representative Barbara Ehardt** said that this concurrent resolution recognized Idahoans who participated in the 2026 winter olympics. She named all Idaho athletes and noted those who won medals. **Representative Ehardt** also recognized Idahoans who participated in the paralympic games, acknowledging their accomplishments and perseverance.

MOTION: **Senator Adams** moved to send **HCR 35** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1436 **STATE PROCUREMENT - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding cooperative and group discount purchasing. Senator Anthon** introduced this legislation as an effort to confirm that Idaho agencies could use existing competitive bids from other governments. He said this would allow for reasonable modifications to contracts and maintain safeguards against abuse.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Guthrie** proposed a hypothetical in which one entity bought several products at one price and another entity bought less product at the same price and asked if that would be okay. **Senator Anthon** said yes, but that it was completely dependent on the vendor. **Chairman Guthrie** asked what the timeline involved in this legislation was. **Senator Anthon** said local governments defined timelines more clearly. **Senator Toews** if there was any way that this process would work around the competitive bid process or if it would always leverage what was already done. **Senator Anthon** said that this did not circumvent the competitive bidding process. **Senator Ruchti** asked Senator Anthon to expand on the legal intent and court implications of this legislation. **Senator Anthon** said the intent of the original legislation was not to hold someone to a piggyback bid with no ability to modify. **Senator Ruchti** asked if bringing this legislation forward this late in the session had anything to do with the pending lawsuit. **Senator Anthon** said no, and admitted he knew very little about the pending lawsuit.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **S 1436** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Vice Chairman Bernt** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote** with **Senator Ruchti** voting nay.

CONVENED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Guthrie** adjourned the meeting at 8:52 a.m.

Senator Guthrie
Chair

Abby Rowe
Secretary