

AGENDA
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE
12:15 P.M.
Room C310
Wednesday, March 18, 2026

For members of the public to observe the meeting, please click on the following link:
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/jfac/>

SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER
<u>S 1252</u>	STATE BUDGETS - Adds to existing law to provide for limitations on increases in the annual maintenance budgets of state entities.	Sen. Foreman

If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to the committee secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman Grow
Vice Chairman Woodward
Sen Cook
Sen Bjerke (Bjerke)
Sen Hart

Sen Carlson
Sen Zuiderveld
Sen Galloway
Sen Ward-Engelking
Sen Wintrow

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Linsy Heiner
Room: C305
Phone: 334-4735
Email: sfin@senate.idaho.gov

MINUTES
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2026

TIME: 12:15 P.M.

PLACE: Room C310

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Grow, Vice Chairman Woodward, Senators Cook, Bjerke (Bjerke), Hart, Carlson, Zuiderveld, Galloway, Ward-Engelking, Wintrow

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

CONVENED: **Chairman Grow** called the meeting of the Finance Committee (Committee) to order at **12:15 p.m.** with a quorum present.

BILL PRESENTATION **Senator Daniel Foreman** (District 6) presented before the Committee. He presented **S 1252**, called the Rogue Act, which aimed to limit annual increases in Idaho state government maintenance budgets. He explained that the bill capped increases based on the average rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Western U.S., while allowing exceptions for emergencies, federal mandates, or operational needs. He stated the measure did not add negative General Fund impact and could have positive long-term effects. He also emphasized that the legislation balanced fiscal restraint with flexibility for agencies and had been developed with input from budget officials.

DISCUSSION: In response to Committee questions, **Senator Foreman** provided additional information. He stated the bill was intended to apply only to maintenance budgets and would become irrelevant if budgeting methods changed and maintenance budgets were no longer separate. He emphasized the CPI-based cap would not prevent increasing employee pay or covering rising costs like leases, since the bill allowed exceptions for operational needs, emergencies, and other circumstances. He clarified that the legislation set a limit but did not require minimum increases, and it would not restrict JFAC's authority, describing it instead as a flexible guideline or statement of intent.

In response to concerns about the bill's necessity, he said it was meant to signal fiscal discipline while still trusting JFAC to make appropriate decisions. He acknowledged criticisms of using CPI and questions about population growth, but argued it was the best available measure and generally reflected broader economic trends. He stated the bill did not clearly define "maintenance budget" or define what qualifies as an exigent circumstance. He emphasized the bill was meant to be flexible and would not prevent the state from responding to economic downturns or funding needs.

Chairman Grow asked the Committee if there were any motions. No motions were made. Chairman Grow thanked Senator Foreman for his presentation.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Grow** adjourned the meeting at **12:39 p.m.**

Senator Grow
Chair

Linsy Heiner
Secretary