

CAPITOL



By Karen Echeverria, Executive Director

“The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.”

– Ray Kroc

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Issue 7

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, AND KEEP THE PRESSURE ON!

Thanks to all of you for hard work with legislators while you were here for Day on the Hill. The day after you left we heard several legislators say in committee that they would not be voting for a particular bill because of what their local school trustees had told them about the bill. That is exactly what we had hoped to accomplish and it means that we had a successful Day on the Hill.

With that said, **it is critically important that we keep the pressure**. Please [contact your legislators](#), and tell them that you oppose the first two the bills below.

HB487 – As a reminder, this is the bill that would only allow districts to run a bond or levy once every 12 months. We managed to get this awful bill killed on the floor of the House on Friday morning. However, we just learned that Representative Scott will be printing another bill this morning in House State Affairs. We will keep you apprised of the bill number once it gets one.

HB590 – The GEM act. This is the bill that sets the stage for tax credits to private and religious schools. The bill was presented in House Education on Friday morning. It is apparent that there are many legislators on the committee who are not in favor of this concept. There was not enough time for all the testimony so there will be another hearing on Wednesday morning.

SB1280 – This is the bill that moves trustee elections to November of odd years. I know that our members are split on this resolution. In effort to compromise, the ISBA membership passed a resolution that supported this move in an effort to keep elections off the November ballot in even years. This legislation did pass out of the Senate State Affairs Committee on

Friday. It will be heard on the Senate floor sometime this week. No matter what your position is on this legislation, I encourage you to contact your Senator.

REMOTE TESTIMONY **HIRING BOARD SPOUSES**

I know we sent you an email on Friday reminding you about this remote testimony. This bill will be heard this morning in House Education. We hope that some of you will join us.

HB580 – This legislation removes a sunset clause on the law that allows school districts and charter schools to hire the spouse of a Board member under certain circumstances. The law has been in place now for three years. While it is not used very often, we do know that a few school districts have used this provision.

K12 PUBLIC EDUCATION BUDGET

The Joint Finance Appropriations Committee set the K12 Public Education budget early last week. This is the first time in many years that there were not opposing motions. Usually, there are several motions from others either trying to increase the proposal or move dollars around. The fact that there was only one proposal means that everyone was pleased with the first proposal.

The budget does include a 5.9% increase. Some highlights include a 3% base increase for administrators, a 3% base increase for classified staff, \$41.7 million to fund the fourth year of the Career Ladder; and a 2.7% increase in operational funding. This is slightly lower than what the Governor had proposed and .9% less than what Superintendent Ybarra proposed. It is still a significant increase. The bill still needs to be voted on by both the House and the Senate. However, we are not expecting any trouble with the bill.

SCIENCE STANDARDS

If you have been watching the news at all, you know that the Senate Education Committee voted to approve the Science Standards in their current form. Because the Science Standards are found in Administrative Rule, and because they are a rule pending approval of the legislature, it only takes one committee to approve them. As such, the Science Standards as written will move forward.

STILL DEALING WITH TAX CUTS, BONDS & LEVIES!

While there are many pieces of tax cut legislation looming out there, most seemed to be stalled or headed nowhere. That is good news for us. However, we still have 4-5 weeks left in the session so we can't yet make assumptions yet.

HB463, It looks like there will only be one piece of tax cut legislation that will move forward. This is the bill that will conform the Idaho income tax code to changes made with the Federal overhaul. It also makes some other amendments as well. The total net cost to the State is a little over \$100 million. I suspect that is why we aren't seeing the other tax bills gain much traction.

HB626, this is Representative Ron Nate's second bill. The first bill got pulled back to committee and will not move forward. This bill has made some technical corrections but is essentially the same as the first bill. It would require additional information in the publication in the newspaper for bonds and levies. The original bill was sent back to committee from the House Floor and another bill introduced. As noted above, several legislators stated that they will not support this legislation based on input from their trustees. Again, good job!

CARD CHECK FOR NEGOTIATIONS VS. SECRET BALLOT

As a reminder, ISBA worked with the Idaho Education Association (IEA) to come to terms on some card check legislation. We have a sponsor for the bill, and were hoping to get it printed and moving in House Education.

Chair VanOrden printed her own piece of legislation this week related to this issue. That legislation still leaves the decision up to the local Board as to whether or not they will request proof of 50% + 1 representation. This legislation further requires that, if requested, the proof of representation can be no more than two years old. This bill does meet the tenets outlined in our resolution and, as such, we will support it moving forward.

Unfortunately, the wrong bill was accidentally printed so it will be pulled back to committee. Another RS is being printed this morning.

ISBA LEGISLATION BASED ON RESOLUTIONS

Below is our progress on each of the ISBA Resolutions.
Anything in italics is new information from last week.

Retention of Retired Teachers (2017) – HB113

Status: Became law last year.

Funding School Construction (2017) – Legislation Needed

Status: We sent a survey out to all superintendents this year. We hope you take the time to complete the survey.

Reducing the Supermajority for School District Bonds (2017) – Constitutional Amendment Needed

Status: We have been unable to find a sponsor for this legislation.

Reduce the 2/3 Majority Vote Requirement to go into Executive Session – Legislation Needed (2017)

Status: We are going to work with the Newspaper Association and possibly the Idaho Press Club over the interim and we hope to come to consensus on language before next legislative session.

Opposition to Amending Article IX Section V of the Idaho Constitution (Blaine Amendment) (2017)

Status: See explanation above related to the GEM Act.

Rural School Centers (2017), HB630

Status: This bill printed on Friday in the House Education Committee. It should be heard this week.

Salary Based Apportionment for Classified Employees (2017) – Legislation Needed

Status: There are many ways to address an increase in funding for classified staff. That could include changing the factor or simply increasing the total dollars in this line item. Because of the significant amount that will likely be placed in teachers' salaries this year, this legislation will likely not be heard. Should any district wish to pursue this, we would encourage them to bring another resolution.

Revision of Idaho Code on Excision (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation, and the sponsoring district is working with their local legislator in hopes of finding a sponsor.

Education Allocation for Out of State Teachers (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We don't believe that this legislation will move forward this year. We believe that we have come to consensus on what this legislation should look like. Unfortunately, it is too late in the year.

Card Check for Negotiations (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: See the explanation above under Education Allocation for Out of State Teachers.

CTE Teachers Experience Factor (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We don't believe that this legislation will move forward this year. We believe that we have come to consensus on what this legislation should look like. Unfortunately, it is too late in the year.

Contracts for Teachers Holding an Interim Certification Under an Alternate Route (2018) – Legislation Needed, SB1293

Status: *This legislation passed the Senate Floor and will be heard in House Education on Friday.*

Move School Board Trustee Elections to November of Odd Years (2018), SB1280

Status: *See explanation above.*

Transportation Reimbursement (2018) – Legislation Needed, SB1304

Status: This legislation was introduced in Senate Education and is now SB 1304. We think the legislators that are working on moving this have lost some momentum. Again, our GAC voted to support the bill if it remains revenue neutral, which SB1304 does accomplish.

K-12 Funding Principles (2018)

Status: This resolution addresses the work of the Funding Formula Committee. We will work closely with that committee to address these issues.

Discussion of the Sale of Public Property in Executive Session (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We were unable to come to terms with the Press Club on this language. This legislation will not move forward this year.

Permissible Education Activities in School Bond and Levy Elections (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: *This bill was reprinted as HB620 and sent directly to the 2nd reading calendar on the House Floor.*

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

In case you don't know how to contact your legislators, here is a link to the Idaho State Legislature page. It can help you find out who your legislators are and how to contact them: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/>

REMOTE TESTIMONY

This year, the House Education Committee is conducting a Remote Legislative Testimony Pilot Project. This project allows Idaho citizens to participate in the legislative process from locations a minimum of 100 miles outside of Boise.

Under the pilot project, utilizing video teleconferencing technology, registrants will be able to testify remotely on proposed legislation scheduled for a remote testimony meeting by the House Education chair.

For more information and a list of locations that you can use this service, visit this link:
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/remote-testimony/>

STAY TUNED

You can view any bills that are moving through the Legislature at the following link:

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/>

If you want to listen to committee meetings or watch debate in JFAC or on the floor of either chamber, the links to do so can be found at:

<http://idahoptv.org/insession/leg.cfm>

ISBA Bill Tracker 2018

Bills highlighted in purple are based on ISBA Resolutions

Bills highlighted in red are dead

Bills highlighted in green have become law

| Bill # | TITLE | POSITION |
|--------|--|----------|
| HB366 | Workers' Compensation for work study students | Neutral |
| HB367 | Resident requirements for higher education | Neutral |
| HB368 | Updates PERSI unfunded liability requirements | Neutral |
| HB412 | Common Core Standards | Oppose |
| HB413 | Federal funding phase out in Education | Oppose |
| HB414 | Sex Education Standards | Neutral |
| HB415 | Excused Absence for a Military Funeral | Neutral |
| HB418 | No lobbyists at school, school districts, or charter schools | Oppose |
| HB420 | Legal publications online and not in the newspaper | Support |
| HB423 | Firearms on school campuses | Neutral |
| HB423 | Net Neutrality | Neutral |
| HB436 | Elected Officials must release tax returns | Neutral |
| HB443 | Firearm education | Neutral |
| HB469 | School Safety Patrol | Neutral |
| HB487 | Bond and Levies only every 12 months | Oppose |
| HB501 | Remove IRI as an Assessment Tool | Neutral |
| HB502 | More Participation in Mastery Based Education | Neutral |
| HB503 | OT and PTs on the Career Ladder | Neutral |
| HB504 | Education Loan Assistance Program | Neutral |
| HB556 | Business Personal Property Tax – County Option | Oppose |
| HB560 | Bond Elections – Ballot Language | Neutral |
| HB561 | Income Tax, Revenue Growth Reduction | Neutral |
| HB565 | Firearms on campus – retired law enforcement officers | Neutral |
| HB566 | Charter School Administrators | Neutral |
| HB573 | Campaign Finance Requirements | Neutral |
| HB579 | Sex Education | Neutral |
| HB580 | Repeal sunset on Hiring of Board Spouse (ISBA Legislation) | Support |
| HB588 | Violence on School Campuses | Neutral |
| HB589 | Mastery Based Education | Neutral |
| HB590 | Guided Education Management (GEM) Act | Oppose |
| HB600 | Public Integrity in Elections Act (Removed) | Support |
| HB611 | Meeting Notices, Action Items, Posting Online | Neutral |
| HB620 | Public Integrity in Elections Act | Support |
| HB626 | Bond Election – Ballot Language | Neutral |
| HB630 | Rural Schools | Support |
| HB629 | High School Apprenticeship – Home Building | Neutral |
| HB632 | Counseling Support Increase | Neutral |
| HB633 | Card Check | Support |

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| HB634 | Suicide Prevention | Neutral |
| HCR049 | Public School Funding Formula Committee | Neutral |
| SB1211 | Appointment to the Professional Standards Commission | Oppose |
| SB1212 | CTE – Adding grades 7 and 8 | Neutral |
| SB1219 | Waiver – Self-Funded Insurance | Neutral |
| SB1222 | CTE – Funding for five new programs | Neutral |
| SB1227 | Immunizations – no signature on a form would be required | Oppose |
| SB1233 | STEM Action Board | Neutral |
| SB1243 | PERSI – High 42 for retirement | Neutral |
| SB1266 | Removal of Senior Math Requirement | Neutral |
| SB1267 | Providing a STEM Diploma | Neutral |
| SB1278 | Update Wireless Technology Standards | Neutral |
| SB1280 | Trustee Elections in November | Support |
| SB1291 | School Turnaround Act | Neutral |
| SB1292 | Advanced Opportunities Act – Update Criteria | Neutral |
| SB1293 | Category 1 Contracts on an Alternate Route | Support |
| SB1294 | Tobacco Tax to benefit Idaho School for the Deaf & Blind | Neutral |
| SB1295 | Career Technical School Funding | Neutral |
| SB1304 | Transportation Reimbursement | Support |
| SB1308 | Public Employees, civil actions | Neutral |