

CAPITOL



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“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

– Henry Ford

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WE WON SOME AND WE LOST SOME: **STATUS UPDATE ON THE MOST IMPORTANT BILLS**

Thank you to all of you who took the time to email and/or call your legislators. While we have, thus far, been unsuccessful in our attempts to kill the two pieces of legislation we asked for your help with, we are not ready to give up the ship just yet. I know that you received a Call to Action from Quinn on Friday afternoon related to HB590 (see our notes below). That bill is going to be heard on the House Floor this morning. We will let you know the outcome of that vote. If you are reading this early in the morning, please send another note to your legislator and let them know you oppose HB590 and ask for their no vote.

We believe the legislature will complete their work on 3/23. They will need to wait for another five days so that all bills can be transmitted to the Governor and then they will sine die. That means that we have about three more weeks of work.

Below is an update on the most important bills that we are still working on.

~~HB487~~ NOW HB639 – Ability to Run a Bond Only Once Every 11 Months. This bill has passed the House and is headed to the Senate State Affairs Committee. As a reminder, the first bill contained both bonds and levies and was every 12 months. We managed to get this awful bill killed on the floor of the House on a week ago Friday morning. However, Representative Scott brought this bill that only impacts bonds. While not as bad as the original bill, it is still harmful. We are hoping that Senator Siddoway will not hear this bill in his committee, but, if he does, we hope we can kill it there. Please watch your email for a Call to Action for the members of the Senate State Affairs Committee.

HB590 – The GEM Act. This is the bill that sets the stage for tax credits to private and religious schools. Despite testimony in opposition to the bill by every education stakeholder group in Idaho, the House Education Committee passed the bill. It will be heard this morning. As noted above, we are hoping \the House members have heard from enough people that it will die on the floor. If it doesn't, we will need to work the Senate Education Committee and try to kill it there.

HB463 – Conforming Tax Legislation. It looks like only one piece of tax cut legislation 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. The total net cost to the State is a little over \$100 million. I suspect that is why we aren't seeing much traction on some of the other tax bills.

HB580 – Ability to Hire Spouses of Board Members. 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. This legislation passed out of House Education this past week. This was the first time the Committee used remote testimony. I want to thank those of you that took the time to travel to one of the remote sites and testify.

HB620 – Educate vs. Advocate. This is legislation we drafted to help clarify what school districts can and cannot do when it comes to bonds and levies. This bill has passed the House Floor and is awaiting a hearing in the Senate State Affairs Committee.

HB626 – Bond Notification. This is Representative Ron Nate's bill. It would require additional information in the publication in the newspaper for bonds and levies. This bill has passed the House and is awaiting a hearing in Senate Local Government and Taxation.

HB647 – Card Check. This is our legislation that will require the local education organization to show proof of representation that has been obtained in the last two years. In other words, the signatures must be current. This bill has passed the House Floor and is headed to the Senate Education Committee.

SB1280 – This is the bill that moves trustee elections to November of odd years. I know that our members are split on this resolution. The ISBA membership passed a resolution that supported this move in an effort to compromise and keep elections off the November ballot in even years. This legislation did pass the Senate Floor and is headed to House State Affairs. No matter what your position is on this legislation, I encourage you to contact your Representative.

SB1291 – School Turnaround Act. This legislation would provide additional resources to non-Title 1 schools that are in the lowest 5%. Under the new statewide ESSA plan, Title 1 schools will have some additional assistance so this bill will complement that. The original bill had some mandatory language, and we worked with Senator Mortimer, who is sponsoring the bill,

to make this optional. Thus, if a school wants to participate they may, but there is not requirement.

SB1293 – Category 1 Contracts for Alternative Route Certification. This is our legislation that would have allowed a school district to keep a teacher on a Category 1 contract while they were completing their Alternate Route to Certification. This bill passed the Senate but was killed in the House Education Committee. The Republicans on the Committee seemed to be confused about what the bill did. In any case, this legislation is dead. With that said, we are working with the Idaho Education Association and the State Department of Education to see if we can find another solution to this issue.

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) – HB590

Status: *See explanation above related to the GEM Act.*

Rural School Centers (2017), HB630

Status: *This bill passed out of the House Education Committee and will likely pass the House Floor. However, it will also likely not be heard in the Senate Education Committee.*

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 – HB647

Status: *See the explanation above.*

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: *See explanation above*

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 – HB620

Status: See explanation above.

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
HB425	Net Neutrality	Neutral
HB436	Elected Officials must release tax returns	Neutral
HB443	Firearm education	Neutral
HB463	Tax reduction – tax conforming	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
HB634	Suicide Prevention	Neutral
HB626	Lobbyists, school districts	Neutral
HB639	Bond Elections Every 12 Months	Oppose
HB647	Card Check	Support
HB648	Computer Science Courses	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