

CAPITOL



By Karen Echeverria, Executive Director

"It takes both sides to build a bridge"
-Fredrik Nael

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Issue 8

CALL TO ACTION

ELECTION CONSOLIDATION

I wrote to you a few weeks back about consequences of not working with our non-education partners. As I feared then, an election consolidation bill has surfaced and will print on Monday morning. This bill will remove our March and August levy election dates and also contains language that will force school districts to allow County Clerks to use their schools for polling places if asked to do so.

I have not yet seen the actual language of the bill and it won't receive a bill number until after it prints on Monday morning. As soon as we have a bill number we will get that out to all of you. We will include some talking points to oppose this legislation and will ask that you reach out first to the House State Affairs Committee members and then the entire House.

I am really worried about this bill. I know that several legislators will support the County Clerks on this issue and we are going to have a hard time fighting this bill.

Stay tuned for more information.

FIREARMS ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES! HB203

This bill did print in House State Affairs last week and is awaiting a hearing. We believe that it will be heard sometime this week. If so, we will ask that some of you come testify in opposition to this bill. We are hoping that it is too late in the session for it to make it through both chambers, but we can't rely on that. This will be an egregious piece of legislation to essentially allow anyone over the age of 21 to carry a firearm on school grounds. While it allows you to ask if an individual is carrying a concealed weapon, they do not have to respond. ISBA's GAC voted unanimously to oppose this bill, as it usurps all local control of school districts and charter schools to make decisions on whether to allow firearms in their school buildings.

Many of you have already reached out to the committee members. If you have not already, please do so now. We would love to kill this in committee. While we urge all of you to contact the members of the House State Affairs Committee, it is most important for those of you who have members on that committee to reach out and ask that they vote NO on HB203. Here is a link to the committee members:

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/standingcommittees/HSTA/>

UPDATE ON PSFF **JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU HAVE IT SOLVED**

As you all know, the education stakeholders have been meeting for two weeks to develop a bill that will meet all of our needs. Our last meeting was Friday morning at 7 am. All the education stakeholders left that meeting feeling very good. We negotiated some significant amendments to the bill. When we left that meeting, it was our understanding that the legislative bill drafters would incorporate all of our edits to the bill and provide us with a copy late on Friday afternoon.

We reported on our great success to the Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) and reported out on Facebook Live. Less than one hour later, we were informed that Representative Horman has a competing bill. At the posting of this issue, we are still just confused and upset. We don't understand why the Chairs of the Education Committees were asked to work with stakeholders to develop a bill if that bill was not going to be used and another one printed instead. This is one of the most significant pieces of legislation to occur in the last 25 years. It should be written by all stakeholders and not just legislators.

We do know that Representative Clow is still planning to print the bill we all negotiated. He is going to start discussions with his Committee on Monday morning. All the education stakeholders will be in the room and we will start working on the Committee to secure the votes we need.

We still have not seen a copy of the competing bill so we have no idea what the impact will be to school districts and charter schools. Until we really know if/when bills print, we won't know how to move forward. Please stay tuned for emails from Quinn or I on this topic.

UPDATE ON A FEW BILLS

Executive Session on Simple Majority (HB150)

This is our legislation which would allow LEAs to enter into executive session with a simple majority vote if they have two or more vacancies on the board. This bill has moved much more easily than we thought it would and passed out of House floor on a unanimous vote. It is now headed over to the Senate.

Immunization Exemption Disclosure (HB133)

This bill has now passed the House floor. Thank you to all of you that reached out to your Senators on the Senate Health and Welfare Committee. We believe that Chair Martin is not going to hear this bill on the Senate side. We never say never, so we will keep a close watch to assure that is the case. Again, thank you to all of you who reached out.

Threats Upon School Grounds (HB115 now 209)

This bill made lots of appearances this week. It was originally sent to the amending order to make a technical correction. While the bill was sent to the amending order to make a small correction, anyone can propose amendments to the bill. There was some concern that “volatile” amendments would be made while in the amending order. In other words, an amendment that we would not like. As such, the sponsor pulled the bill back. He then printed a new bill in House Ways and Means, sent it back to the Judiciary, Rules, and Administration Committee where it was quickly heard again and passed to the House floor. See how quickly the legislature can move things around? In any case, this bill is moving forward.

Levy Election Disclosure (HB 130)

I testified in the Senate State Affairs Committee on this bill. Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful and it will likely become law. With that said, the sponsor of the bill did state on the record that there is nothing in the bill that prevents a school district from adding additional information to the ballot. For instance, here is the language that we proposed be included in the bill and we would recommend that you use as well:

The estimated average annual cost to the taxpayer of the proposed levy, ~~in the form of~~ “A is a tax of \$ per one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) of taxable assessed value, per year, based on current conditions. The proposed levy would replace an existing levy of \$___ per year, resulting in an estimated tax increase of \$___ per one hundred thousand (\$100,000) of taxable assessed value based on current conditions/and estimated decrease of \$___ per one hundred thousand (\$100,000) of taxable assessed value based on current conditions/no increase based on current conditions. The dollar amount shall be calculated by multiplying the expected levy rate by one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000); and

FACEBOOK LIVE

This is a quick shout out to everyone who has been watching Karen and I live on Facebook every Friday at 2:15 p.m. MT. Again, these videos provide a brief summary of the week where you can join the video and ask us questions on the spot. You can watch us live on Fridays or watch previous videos here:

<https://www.facebook.com/StandUp4IdahoPublicSchools/>

ISBA LEGISLATION BASED ON RESOLUTIONS

Below is our progress on each of the ISBA Resolutions.

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: This language will not be included in the Public School Funding Formula bill, so we will need to discuss next year.

Card Check for Negotiations (2018) – HB647

Status: This legislation passed last year and is now law.

CTE Teachers Experience Factor (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: *This language will not be included in the Public School Funding Formula bill so we will need to discuss next year.*

Contracts for Teachers Holding an Interim Certification under an Alternate Route (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: Although it passed the Senate unanimously, this legislation failed to pass the House Education committee last year. After speaking with the school district that brought this legislation, we don't think we are going to be able to come to consensus on this bill.

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

Status: This legislation passed and is now law.

Transportation Reimbursement (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation needs a sponsor. However, there would be winners and losers under this legislation. We are asking to see if there would be any chance to refund the \$7.5 million that was removed during the recession. This is the only recession era cut that has not been restored. We are not hopeful that the funding will be available.

K-12 Funding Principles (2018)

Status: *See my notes above on the Public School Funding Formula bill.*

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 last year. We will try again this year but are not hopeful.

Permissible Education Activities in School Bond and Levy Elections (2018), HB620

Status: This legislation passed and is now law.

Salary Based Apportionment for Classified Salaries (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation. The sponsoring districts are working to find a legislative sponsor. Because this legislation carries a very large fiscal note and because some legislators are working on the funding formula legislation, we are not sure if the Legislature will be willing to address this issue this year.

Reduce Super Majority on Facility Bonds (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation. As usual, we don't expect to see any movement on this legislation this year. We are hoping to convince some legislators to put a group of people together to discuss this issue. We are hopeful that we make some headway with a task force discussion.

Executive Session on Simple Majority (2019), HB150

Status: *This bill passed the House and is headed to the Senate.*

Funding for Full Day Kindergarten (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: *This bill will not move forward this year.*

Opposition to Public Funds Diverted to Private Schools (2019)

Status: This resolution does not require any legislation. We are hearing that a Representative will be bringing full blown tax credit legislation. We are hopeful that we can keep it from moving forward again this year. We will be reaching out to you to contact your legislators on this issue when it comes forward.

Amending School Age Statute for Flexibility (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: *This will not move forward this year.*

Recourse for Charter School Renewals (2019)

Status: After speaking with a representative from the State Board of Education, we believe that we can accomplish the tenets of this resolution through Administrative Rule. The SBOE will work on a rule after the legislation session and, if passed, it will go into effect in 2020.

Strategic Plans and Reporting Requirements (2019), SB1057

Status: *This bill passed the Senate and is awaiting a hearing on the House side.*

Threats on School Grounds (2019), HB115

Status: *See my discussion above on this bill.*

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

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/>

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 2019

Bills highlighted in **purple** are based on ISBA Resolutions

Bills highlighted in **red** are dead

Bills highlighted in **green** have become law

Bill #	TITLE	STATUS	POSITION
HB41	Public Employees, Severance Pay	Awaiting hearing	OPPOSE
HB65	Administrative Rulemaking Overhaul	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
HB69	PERSI Employee Definition	Awaiting hearing	OPPOSE
HB91	Impact Fees for Charter Schools	Senate floor	Support
HB93	Nontraditional Educator Preparation Program	Passed House Awaiting Hearing/Senate	Neutral
HB103	Levy Elections Disclosure	Senate floor	Neutral
HB115	Threats on School Grounds	Replaced by HB209	Support
HB120	Sex Education	House Floor	OPPOSE
HB133	Immunization Exemptions	Passed House Awaiting Hearing/Senate	OPPOSE
HB150	Executive Session, Simple Majority	Passed House Awaiting Hearing/Senate	Support
HB153	Career Ladder, Teacher Pay	Passed House Awaiting Hearing/Senate	Support
HB161	Purchasing – Publishing Online Rather Than Newspaper	Passed House	Support
HB177	Hiring Retired Law Enforcement to Work in Schools	House Floor	Neutral
HB185	Educator Loan Assistance	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
HB203	Firearms	Awaiting hearing	OPPOSE
HB209	Threats on School Grounds	House Floor	Support
HB218	Rural Teacher Incentive Program	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
HCR006	Music in Schools Month	Passed both chambers	Neutral
HJR2	Redistricting Commission	Pulled back to committee	Neutral
SB1029	School Turnaround Act	Passed Senate Awaiting Hearing/House	Neutral
SB1030	School Boards, Organizational Meeting	Awaiting Gov's Signature	Support
SB1057	School Improvement Plans	Passed Senate Awaiting Hearing/House	Support
SB1058	Charter School Administrators	Passed Senate/ House Floor	Neutral
SB1059	Mastery Based Education	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
SB1060a	Flexible Schedule and Early Graduation	Passed Senate Awaiting Hearing/House	Neutral
SB1061	School Levies	Amending Order	Support
SB1101	Literacy Intervention	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
SB1102	Charter School Financial Support	Awaiting hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>
SB1103	Charter School Facility Fund	Awaiting hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>

SB1104	Certificate Renewal/Professional Development	Amending Order	Neutral
SB1105	Advanced Opportunities for CTE	Passed Senate Awaiting Hearing/House	Neutral
SB1106	Career Technical Opportunities for Virtual Charters	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
SB1107	Sunset Provision for 33-1004	Passed Senate Awaiting Hearing/House	Neutral
SB1108	Drivers Ed Training, Needs Based Scholarships	Passed Senate Awaiting Hearing/House	Neutral
SB1113	Campaign Finance	Passed Senate Awaiting Hearing/House	Neutral
SB1131	Increased Fines for School Bus Passing	Amending Order	Neutral