

# CAPITOL



By Karen Echeverria, Executive Director

"The most respectful attitude you can offer someone is your unconditional interest."

– Rosalene Glickman, Ph.D.

February 12, 2018  
Issue 5

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## **PRINT HEARINGS** **AND** **PRIVILEGED COMMITTEES**

Today, Monday February 12 is the last day that most committees can print legislation. As a reminder, a print hearing is just a determination as to whether or not the bill will even be heard (discussed, debated, and voted upon). No public testimony is allowed at a print hearing. As such, we are seeing a ton of bills getting printed last Friday and today.

With that said, there are “privileged committees”. The House Education Committee is one of those, the Senate Education Committee is not. Because House Education is a privileged committee, they will be able to print some bills after today. However, they will be limited.

## **BONDS AND LEVIES** **EDUCATE VS. ADVOCATE**

It seems to be the year of bonds and levies. We have seen several bills related to school districts’ ability to run bonds and levies. ISBA membership did pass a resolution related to clarifying the difference between education and advocacy. We have been working with Representative Monks on that bill, and it printed in House State Affairs on Friday. It has not yet been given a bill number, so it’s not showing up on the legislative website yet.

In addition, HB482 was printed. This bill would limit school districts’ ability to run a bond or levy to once every twelve months. Obviously, this would pose significant problems for school districts. In addition, we are hearing about another piece of legislation that may be forthcoming that outlines what needs to be published in relationship to the tax implications.

We believe this legislation is completely unnecessary because school districts are already required to do this.

## **TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT**

As a reminder, ISBA membership passed a resolution asking that we return to pre-recession era language stating that all transportation costs will be reimbursed at 85%. After completing these calculations, we realized that there would be a net negative \$2.7 million to the transportation line item.

After several iterations of this legislation, we believe we have reached as a good a compromise as we are going to get. As requested by ISBA, the fiscal note will remain revenue neutral. My compliments to the GAC for their suggestion in this regard. The \$2.7 million will remain in the transportation line item, so there will be no reduction in funding. It will, however, be redistributed. That means that there will still be winners and losers – a position that ISBA does not like to take. For the most part, the school districts and charter schools that would have seen a reduction in funding under the spreadsheet we shared last week will still see one. However, those amounts are significantly reduced.

With all of that said, I still believe that we need to keep discussing the \$7.5 million recession era cut that has not been restored. You can rest assured that it will be part of my testimony.

## **TRUSTEE ELECTIONS**

This bill printed in Senate Education last week. The Senators were trying to work with Counties in an attempt to alleviate some of their concerns. After several iterations, the Senators chose to remove some language and attempt to move forward with a bill that did nothing more than move trustee election dates to November of odd years and clean up some language related to district and charter annual meetings.

After the bill was printed, it was forwarded to Senate State Affairs. Even though it is related to school districts, it is an election bill. So we suspect that is why it will be heard in Senate State Affairs.

We are hearing that some County Clerks, the Idaho Association of Counties, and the Secretary of State will testify in opposition to this bill.

As you all know, the ISBA resolution on this issue was passed as a defensive move. It was never our intent to run legislation, and we would only use it if there were legislation to move elections to November of even years. Our testimony on the bill will reflect those wishes.

## **CARD COUNT FOR NEGOTIATIONS**

We continue to struggle to find the right answer related to this resolution. We negotiated legislation with the Idaho Education Association (IEA) that accomplished the outcomes of our resolution. We are seeking to assure that any signatures obtained by the local education organization have been obtained in the past two years.

There are other entities that have been lobbying for a secret ballot to be used when obtaining those signatures. That is not in opposition to our resolution but is definitely further than the IEA is willing to go. Both the House and Senate Education Chairs are working to find consensus on this bill, but we have not come close yet.

As noted above, House Education is a privileged committee so I am still hopeful that we can get something done on this resolution this year.

### **THE EVER MOVING TARGET OF OUT-OF-STATE TEACHERS – EDUCATION ALLOCATION CTE TEACHERS – EXPERIENCE ALLOCATION**

Well, every time I think we have an answer, all of this gets more complicated. So complicated in fact that I am not going to try and explain it here. I do want you to know that I have some superintendents, assistant superintendents, and HR directors who are working to find solutions. What we have learned is that we are going to have even more problems once the Career Ladder becomes fully implemented and funded.

I do not believe that we will see any legislation on either of these topics this year. I am hopeful that we will see some clarifying resolutions on both of these topics for next year.

### **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:** This resolution requires ISBA to oppose any legislation that would ask for an amendment to the constitution. This amendment would allow public funds to flow to private and parochial schools. We know of one piece of legislation that is similar to what we have seen in the past that would allow for tax credits. We are also hearing that there will be a piece of legislation that would allow general fund dollars to flow directly to private and parochial schools.

## **Rural School Centers (2017)**

**Status:** We have seen a draft copy of this legislation that the State Department of Education intends to move forward. Currently, there is money in the Superintendent of Public Education's budget to fund this work. This is legislation that we will support, should it move forward.

## **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:** *See the explanation above.*

## **Card Check for Negotiations (2018) – Legislation Needed**

**Status:** *See the explanation above.*

## **CTE Teachers Experience Factor (2018) – Legislation Needed**

**Status:** *See the explanation above*

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

**Status:** *This legislation printed last week and we expect a hearing soon.*

## **Move School Board Trustee Elections to November of Odd Years (2018)**

**Status:** *See the explanation above.*

## **Transportation Reimbursement (2018) – Legislation Needed**

**Status:** *See the explanation above.*

## **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:** *See the 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

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>POSITION</b>
<b>HB366</b>	Workers' Compensation for work study students	Neutral
<b>HB367</b>	Resident requirements for higher education	Neutral
<b>HB368</b>	Updates PERSI unfunded liability requirements	Neutral
<b>HB412</b>	Common Core Standards	Oppose
<b>HB413</b>	Federal funding phase out in Education	Oppose
<b>HB414</b>	Sex Education Standards	Neutral
<b>HB415</b>	Excused Absence for a Military Funeral	Neutral
<b>HB418</b>	No lobbyists at school, school districts, or charter schools	Oppose
<b>HB420</b>	Legal publications online and not in the newspaper	Support
<b>HB423</b>	Firearms on school campuses	Neutral
<b>HB423</b>	Net Neutrality	Neutral
<b>HB436</b>	Elected Officials must release tax returns	Neutral
<b>HB443</b>	Firearm education	Neutral
<b>HB469</b>	School Safety Patrol	Neutral
<b>HB487</b>	Bond and Levies only every 12 months	Oppose
<b>HB501</b>	Remove IRI as an Assessment Tool	Neutral
<b>HB502</b>	More Participation in Mastery Based Education	Neutral
<b>HB503</b>	OT and PTs on the Career Ladder	Neutral
<b>HB504</b>	Education Loan Assistance Program	Neutral
<b>SB1211</b>	Appointment to the Professional Standards Commission	Oppose
<b>SB1212</b>	CTE – Adding grades 7 and 8	Neutral
<b>SB1219</b>	Waiver – Self-Funded Insurance	Neutral
<b>SB1222</b>	CTE – Funding for five new programs	Neutral
<b>SB1227</b>	Immunizations – no signature on a form would be required	Oppose
<b>SB1233</b>	STEM Action Board	Neutral
<b>SB1243</b>	PERSI – High 42 for retirement	Neutral
<b>SB1266</b>	Removal of Senior Math Requirement	Neutral
<b>SB1267</b>	Providing a STEM Diploma	Neutral
<b>SB1278</b>	Update Wireless Technology Standards	Neutral
<b>SB1280</b>	Trustee Elections in November	Support
<b>SB1291</b>	School Turnaround Act	Neutral
<b>SB1292</b>	Advanced Opportunities Act – Update Criteria	Neutral
<b>SB1293</b>	Category 1 Contracts on an Alternate Route	Support