

CAPITOL



By Quinn Perry, Policy & Government Affairs Director

*“Never mistake activity for achievement”
-John Wooden*

**March 11, 2019
Issue 9**

FIRST, SOME GOOD NEWS

Last week was dubbed “meltdown” week at the legislature. This is the time of year where every day seems to inspire a new crisis. That said, we have a few things to celebrate. HB 203 (firearms in schools) is reportedly dead for the session, as is HB 133 (immunization exemption disclosure). Furthermore, we believe that the elections consolidation bill is dead for the session. If you reached out to your legislators on these issues, pat yourselves on the back! Their deaths provided moments of sunshine in what was otherwise a dreary week.

SOME NOT-SO-GOOD NEWS

Rep. Ron Mendive introduced his Education Savings Account legislation on Friday in House State Affairs. It is late in the session, so it likely does not have much momentum behind it. That said, ISBA is adamantly opposed to any kind of legislation that takes public dollars and funnels it to private or parochial schools.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING – A CRITICAL TIME

As Karen reported last week, the education stakeholders felt deflated when we found out that the bill we had been negotiating for weeks was going to have a competing bill. We spent much of the week reviewing the new draft, and balancing the politics surrounding the issue. Late last week, we met with Chairman Mortimer and Senator Den Hartog, where we were told that the Senate would be carrying the competing piece of legislation. One positive to come from all of this is that the bills will be made available to the public, and we can begin a transparent process of amending it.

As of moments ago, there will only be one bill. This morning, House Education committee rejected to print Chairman Clow’s version of the bill, which included the bulk of stakeholder input. Meanwhile, the Senate did

print the other version of the bill, which has sections that will need amending. The amendments should address the lack of financial stability with payment distributions, unclear language related to salary schedules, and stricken contract language that has been in place for nearly a decade. In addition, stakeholders were able to come up with language in order to identify a portion of the per-student model that would be intended for salaries, which does not appear in the Senate version.

The Senate version should be made available to the public very soon. **Keep on alert for when we send an update and a strategic plan moving forward.** This is the time of year that bills will move quickly!

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 vacancies on the board preventing a 2/3 majority from being reached. After passing the House unanimously, it passed the Senate Education committee unanimously and heads to the full Senate.

Threats Upon School Grounds (~~HB115~~ now 209)

This bill passed the House with minimal opposition and now heads to the Senate Judiciary & Rules committee.

Superintendent Evaluations

Senator Dave Lent introduced a bill on Friday morning related to superintendent evaluations. As of today, it still has not been put on the website, but we do know that it will require student achievement metrics (such as K-3 literacy scores) as a component of the evaluation. It is late in the year, so we are unsure if it will go through this session.

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 it 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 Senate Education Committee and heads to the full 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: *Rep. Ron Mendive introduced an Education Savings Account bill. It's late in the year, but ISBA will adamantly oppose this.*

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:

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	Passed House Awaiting Hearing/Senate	OPPOSE
HB133	Immunization Exemptions	Passed House Awaiting Hearing/Senate - DEAD	OPPOSE
HB150	Executive Session, Simple Majority	Senate Floor	Support
HB153	Career Ladder, Teacher Pay	Senate Floor	Support
HB161	Purchasing – Publishing Online Rather Than Newspaper	Died in Senate Committe	DEAD
HB177	Hiring Retired Law Enforcement to Work in Schools	House Floor	Neutral
HB185	Educator Loan Assistance	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
HB203	Firearms	Awaiting hearing in House - DEAD	OPPOSE
HB209	Threats on School Grounds	Passed House Awaiting Hearing/Senate	Support
HB218	Rural Teacher Incentive Program	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
	Education Savings Account	Awaiting Hearing	Opposed
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 Sent To Amending Order on House Floor	Neutral
SB1061	School Levies	Senate Floor	Support
SB1101	Literacy Intervention	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
SB1102	Charter School Financial Support	Reprinted	Neutral
SB1103	Charter School Facility Fund	Reprinted	Neutral
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	Amending Order	Neutral
SB1107	Sunset Provision for 33-1004	Passed Senate House Floor	Neutral
SB1108	Drivers Ed Training, Needs Based Scholarships	Passed Senate Awaiting Hearing/House	Neutral
SB1113	Campaign Finance	Passed Senate Amending Order/House	Neutral
SB1131	Increased Fines for School Bus Passing	Senate Floor	Neutral
	Charter School Facility Fund	Awaiting Hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>
	Superintendent Evaluations	Awaiting Hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>