

# CAPITOL



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*"The world is but a canvas to our imagination"*  
-Henry Thoreau

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## **COMMITTEES CLOSING DOWN**

While I am personally enjoying the nice spring weather, it also is a reminder to the legislators that it is time to go home. Many of them are farmers and ranchers and they need to get started with spring planting and taking care of new baby animals.

Most committees are now being held only at the call of Chair. That means that there is not a lot of work out there so they are waiting for any bills that might come over from the other chamber. With that said, they still have one big issue to deal with – Medicaid Expansion.

The Senate has approved the budget bill which would deal with Medicaid expansion. The House, on the other hand, has not yet come to consensus. There have been several bills printed that contain side boards, or certain work requirements etc., but only one of those bills has passed the House floor and is likely to be dead in the Senate. The Speaker was quoted this week as saying that he didn't have the votes to pass it with our without sideboards. As of today, there is no end in sight. With that said, there may be a compromise bill in the works.

As long as the legislature remains here, there is always the chance that they can keep working on other issues – like public school funding.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING – WHAT NOW?**

As I reported last week, the Senate heard testimony on SB1196. If any of you listened to that testimony, you know that Chair Mortimer indicated at the beginning of the meeting that he would not be taking a vote on the bill that day. Almost all those who testified either asked that they hold the bill in committee or asked the legislature to slow down, take a year, continue to work on it, and then run it out next year.

There was testimony on a myriad of topics. However, there were several salient points that were expressed several times by different speakers.

1. We need some mechanism to identify our veteran teachers and receive additional funding from the state for them.
2. There is no identification or funding for alternative students or schools.
3. There is concern that the spreadsheet is accurate and/or working accurately and that we need to see data for four years so we can see what occurs when the “cliff” hits.

At least one other, pared down, version of the bill surfaced on Thursday afternoon but will not be printed because there was not enough support for it. If they are here for any length of time, it is possible that another bill could surface. See my note related to timing.

## **WHAT IS THE BIG PICTURE FOR THE 2019 SESSION?**

As with every year, we win some and we lose some. Our losses were not big this year but our wins were. You can see the specific bills in the table at the end of this document and the list of bills we sponsored under ISBA Legislation.

With that said, I think part of our big win this year was the collaboration that occurred with all the education stakeholders, both non-profit and government agencies. It showed me once again what happens when everyone has the same goal in mind and works toward that end. It reminded me of the collaboration that occurred with Governor Otter’s K12 Public Education Task Force.

While there were some legislators that did not like the outcome of the stakeholder work this session, I think it is important to remember that the legislature asked us to do it. It was always the intent for the Germane Committees to flush out the actual PSFF legislation in consultation with the stakeholders. We worked incredibly hard for about 20 hours over a two week period and came to consensus. But the bill that we all supported never saw the light of day because some legislators were not comfortable with the joint work we all did. All other legislation that has been proposed, without stakeholder input, was met with considerable objection and also did not make it out of committee. The end result was nothing.

Call me a Polly Anna, but I remain forever hopeful that the legislature will let the next Governor’s Task Force work to create the next five-year plan. While I doubt any future committee will get into the deep depth of writing a piece of legislation of this magnitude, they may make some suggestions.

## **FACEBOOK LIVE**

This is a quick shout out to everyone who has been watching Quinn and I live on Facebook every Friday at 2:15 p.m. MT. We recorded out last session last Friday, March 22. 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:

## **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:** This bill actually surfaced late in the session and will not get through this year. We are hopeful this resolution resurfaces and we can work with this year's sponsor to move it forward next year.

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

**Status:** We are hoping this resolution will come back so we can work on 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:** We are hoping this resolution will come back so we can work on it 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.

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

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

**Status:** This will not move forward this year. However, Senator Winder has a Concurrent Resolution that will form an Interim Committee to look at school facility funding. It is still on the House Floor but we are hoping that it will pass.

### **Executive Session on Simple Majority (2019), HB150**

**Status:** This legislation passed and is now law.

### **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:** Two bills surfaced this year but neither will move forward. They will be back again next year.

### **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 out of the amending order and is now on the House Floor.

### **Threats on School Grounds (2019), HB209**

**Status:** This bill is awaiting the Governor's signature.

## **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:

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	DEAD	Oppose
HB65	Administrative Rulemaking Overhaul	DEAD	Neutral
HB69	PERSI Employee Definition	DEAD	Oppose
HB91	Impact Fees for Charter Schools	LAW	Support
HB93aa	Nontraditional Educator Preparation Program	Awaiting Governor's Signature	Neutral
HB103	Levy Elections Disclosure	LAW	Neutral
HB115	Threats on School Grounds	Replaced by HB209	Support
HB120	Sex Education	DEAD Died in House Senate Ed	Oppose
HB133	Immunization Exemptions	DEAD	Oppose
HB150	Executive Session, Simple Majority	LAW	Support
HB153	Career Ladder, Teacher Pay	LAW	Support
HB161	Purchasing – Publishing Online Rather Than Newspaper	Died in Senate Committee	Neutral
HB177	Hiring Retired Law Enforcement to Work in Schools	Awaiting Governor's Signature	Neutral
HB185	Educator Loan Assistance	DEAD	Neutral
HB203	Firearms on School Grounds	DEAD	Oppose
HB209	Threats on School Grounds	Awaiting Governor's Signature	Support
HB218	Rural Teacher Incentive Program	DEAD	Neutral
HB253	Education Savings Account	DEAD	Oppose
HB270	Public Schools Polling Places	Passed House Senate Floor	Neutral
HB272	School Bonds – Excision	Awaiting Hearing	Support
HB273	GEM Act – Voucher Bill	DEAD	Oppose
HCR006	Music in Schools Month	Passed both chambers	Neutral
HJR2	Redistricting Commission	DEAD	Neutral
SB1029	School Turnaround Act	DEAD	Neutral

SB1030	School Boards, Organizational Meeting	LAW	Support
SB1057	School Improvement Plans	Passed Senate House Floor	Support
SB1058	Charter School Administrators	LAW	Neutral
SB1059	Mastery Based Education	LAW	Neutral
SB1060a	Flexible Schedule and Early Graduation	Passed Senate House Floor	Neutral
SB1061a	School Levies	Passed Senate House Floor	Support
SB1101	Literacy Intervention	DEAD	Neutral
SB1102	Charter School Financial Support	DEAD	Neutral
SB1103	Charter School Facility Fund	Reprinted	Neutral
SB1104a	Certificate Renewal/Professional Development	Passed Senate House Floor	Neutral
SB1105	Advanced Opportunities for CTE	Awaiting Governor's Signature	Neutral
SB1106	Career Technical Opportunities for Virtual Charters	Passed Senate House Floor	Neutral
SB1107	Sunset Provision for 33-1004	LAW	Neutral
SB1108	Drivers Ed Training, Needs Based Scholarships	DEAD	Neutral
SB1113a	Campaign Finance	Passed Senate House Floor	Neutral
SB1131a	Increased Fines for School Bus Passing	Awaiting Governor's Signature	Neutral
SB1180	Charter School Facility Fund	Passed Senate House Floor	Neutral
SB1181	Superintendent Evaluations	Awaiting Hearing Senate	Neutral
SB1196	Public School Funding Formula	DEAD	Neutral
SCR111	School Construction	Passed Senate House Floor	Support