

CAPITOL



By Quinn Perry, Policy & Government Affairs Director

*“When the legislature is in session, everyone is at ease”
-No one, ever.*

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Issue 11

IT'S NOT APRIL FOOLS...WE'RE STILL IN SESSION.

I wish I were April Fools-ing you all when I say that the legislature is still very in session, even though most committees are “subject to the call of the chair.”

The legislature still has big, controversial issues to figure out, most notably Medicaid expansion. Late last week, the Senate Health & Welfare committee killed Rep. Vander Woude’s mandatory work requirement bill. The Senate still has a “compromise” bill that is up for amendment and would still need approval from the House. For three weeks, the House has skipped over the budget bill which would fund Medicaid Expansion.

To me, the most controversial bill of the year has been SB1159aa, which would dramatically change the process to for a citizen initiative to qualify for the ballot. I think it is notable to ISBA members because the process has been fascinating to watch, and has been notably lacking in transparency. On Thursday, the House only convened for moments before it went “at ease” to caucus. After a few hours, they finally called a recess, but unbeknownst to most, ALSO convened a Ways & Means Committee to introduce a ‘trailer’ bill, which would decrease the amount of legislative districts required in SB1159aa from 32 to 24 districts and increase the time allowed to gather signatures from 180 days to 270 days. The meeting was held on such short notice that only one member of the minority party was able to attend. Members of the press raised the question of whether this violated either a House Rule or the Idaho Open Meeting Law. Introducing the amendments as a trailer is a wonky way to make policy. This is because the Senate would not have to “concur” with the trailer bill, so only SB1159aa would be making it to the Governor’s desk. Had they sent it to the House’s amending order, the Senate would have to debate and vote on SB1159aa again. Long story short, SB1159aa passed the Senate on an 18-17 vote, and the House on a 40-30 vote. Neither of these are particularly strong, and the Governor will have a difficult choice to make.

Finally, as long as the Legislature remains here debating Medicaid and ballot initiatives, there is time to move a bill forward related to the public school funding formula.

HB 293 – A DEFINITIONS BILL

Last Tuesday, Senator Dave Lent and Senator Jim Woodward introduced a “definitions” bill, which will help outline the criteria for schools and districts to begin collecting and reporting data on special populations that will later determine a student-based funding formula. While we truly feel this is a more palatable step we discuss the shift to a per-student funding, we still had concerns with the bill, which we expressed in testimony the following Wednesday.

1. Salary Schedule is defined in the new bill. This is mostly okay, but it will require that any of your instructional staff who are a “P1”, or have received a professional endorsement be paid according to the Career Ladder – which is \$42,500. We know that many of you spread your teacher allocation across your salary schedules in order to adequately pay your veteran teachers, so this may be a big shift in your schedules.
2. According to the definition, you’ll only be tracking “at-risk” kids beginning at Grade 6. In addition, beginning in 2020, you’ll have to report your special populations on October 1. It is presumed that the prior year’s data will be reported, but this is unclear. Special populations will be reported again on December 1.
3. It is still unclear how schools that have Community Eligibility Status for Free & Reduced Lunch will be able to properly identify their kids who are economically disadvantaged.
4. It will require you to report all your expenditures related to your line items—including your discretionary money – back to the state. We explained to them this would be difficult and cumbersome, especially if you have local levy dollars. Our example was that if you and your spouse’s paycheck go into the same account, and you buy groceries, how do you report whose paycheck the groceries came out of? We believe this is a report just for the sake of reporting, and may provide the legislature variable data that is not productive.

All this to say that the good Senators are aware of our concerns and have committed to helping us fix them if they become serious problems in the future. It is a difficult position, politically, to continuously object to attempts to move forward on a new school funding formula. We believe the information they have requested is mostly productive and we’ll make sure you all get the right training if it is signed into law.

I expected this to be passed out of the House on Friday and into the Senate early next week. However, with the extended debate on SB1159aa, it was held on the third reading calendar until Monday. We will keep you posted on its progress and hearing in the Senate.

FACEBOOK LIVE – THANK YOU

We hope you enjoyed our attempt to provide you a quick recap of the legislative session as we went “live” every Friday at 2:15p.m. This was an experiment for both Karen and I, but we received a ton of great feedback.

I hope that we can improve it with time, invite guests to join, and have more interaction on the post. Thanks for watching!

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 do not 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 heading to the Governor's Desk.

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:

<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	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	LAW
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
HB259a	Marketplace Facilitators	Back to House for concurrence	Oppose/ Neutral if amended
HB270	Public Schools Polling Places	Awaiting Governor's Signature	Neutral

HB272	School Bonds – Excision	Awaiting Hearing	Support
HB273	GEM Act – Voucher Bill	DEAD	Oppose
HB293	School Funding – Definitions	House floor	Neutral
HB295	Literacy Intervention Technology	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
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	To Governor’s Desk	Support
SB1058	Charter School Administrators	LAW	Neutral
SB1059	Mastery Based Education	LAW	Neutral
SB1060a	Flexible Schedule and Early Graduation	To Governor’s Desk	Neutral
SB1061a	School Levies	Passed Senate House Floor for additional amendments	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	To Governor’s Desk	Neutral
SB1107	Sunset Provision for 33-1004	LAW	Neutral
SB1108	Drivers Ed Training, Needs Based Scholarships	DEAD	Neutral
SB1113a	Campaign Finance	To Governor’s Desk	Neutral
SB1131a	Increased Fines for School Bus Passing	LAW	Neutral
SB1180	Charter School Facility Fund	To Governor’s Desk	Neutral
SB1181	Superintendent Evaluations	Awaiting Hearing Senate	Neutral
SB1196	Public School Funding Formula	DEAD	Neutral
SCR111	School Construction	Passed Senate House Floor	Support