

CAPITOL



By Quinn Perry, Policy & Government Affairs Director

"Idaho's young generation gets a big share of my policy priorities as Governor. I often talk about the lens through which I make decisions – I want to make Idaho the place where our children and grandchildren choose to stay. I want my grandkids, who are enrolled in Idaho public schools, to access educational opportunities in Idaho, find good jobs in Idaho, and raise their families in Idaho. I want them to carry on the legacy of our family in Idaho, in whichever way they choose.

-Governor Brad Little in his op-ed "We Support Students When We Support Teachers"

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Issue 7

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADVOCACY

A big shout out to those who were able to attend Day on the Hill. We had an excellent turnout from lawmakers during the luncheon, and your efforts do not go unnoticed. We were pleased to have Governor Brad Little stop by on Tuesday to share his insight, wisdom, and support for Idaho's public schools.

TWO URGENT CALLS TO ACTION FOR TODAY: CAREER LADDER AND ELECTION DATES!

#1- THE GOVERNOR'S ONLY 2020 POLICY GOAL – TEACHER SALARIES

This past week, the House Education committee voted to introduce HB 523, which would add an Advanced Professional Rung of the career ladder and put nearly \$224 million into teacher salaries over the next five years. While this policy proposal is a continued effort from former Governor Otter's original K-12 Task Force and reinforced by Governor Little's "Our Kids, Idaho's Future" Task force, we have to stress that this policy proposal faces unique hurdles.

House Education committee members need to hear from school board members, administrators, teachers, business owners, and patrons about the positive impacts this will have on schools and districts. We see this as a plan to put districts and schools on a financially stable route that will allow them to recruit and retain educators. Most importantly, HB 523 provides the ability to create a positive impact on student achievement, as having an effective educator in the classroom is one of the biggest components of student success.

We also believe this plan has a strong, but reasonable, accountability component. You have the commitment from ISBA and other stakeholders to ensure that this accountability process is implemented as smoothly as possible, and if hurdles or issues arise, we can look at ways to make it better for schools and districts.

So, we need everyone to contact the House Education committee ASAP and ask for their support for HB 523 – which is scheduled to be heard on **Tuesday, February 25th, at 9:00 a.m.** (*subject to change – we will notify if so!*). **You can contact the House Ed committee and ask for their support by visiting this link:**

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/standingcommittees/HEDU/>

#2 - REMOVAL OF MARCH AND AUGUST ELECTION DATES, BOND LIMITATIONS

We have been notified that HB 393 – which would remove March and August election dates – is *also* scheduled for a hearing on **Tuesday, February 25th at either 8 or 9 a.m.** in House State Affairs. It is almost ironic that both the career ladder bill and HB 393 will be heard at the same time. It is so important for lawmakers to hear your concerns about this legislation. We believe this could have very significant negative impacts on school districts and could create impossible hurdles to financial stability for many. **Contact the House State Affairs committee ASAP, and ask them to hold HB 393 in committee:**

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/standingcommittees/HSTA/>

HB 347 is awaiting a hearing in Senate State Affairs – this bill would limit school districts’ ability run a bond to once per year. Together with HB 393, these policy proposals have the ability to hinder school districts in providing their services with financial stability.

Senate Membership: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/senate/membership/>

House Membership: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/house/membership/>

SEX EDUCATION – Déjà vu?

Rep. Barbara Ehardt (R, Legislative District 33 – Idaho Falls) introduced a new bill related to sex education which, oddly enough, does not really have to do with sex education instruction. It actually requires that any presentation, story time, discussion, or reading assignment receive explicit permission from parents if it is “focused primarily or substantially on human sexuality, encompassing the topics of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, eroticism, sexual pleasure, or sexual intimacy.” ISBA’s legal counsel has been reviewing the bill, and we plan to share concerns with the Rep. Ehardt to see if we can come to an agreement on some of these broad terms and definitions.

OTHER NEW BILLS WE ARE WATCHING

HJR5 – Taxation of Leased Public Property: This proposed constitutional amendment would require that any land that is *owned* by a public agency but *leased* out to a private party or company be assessed and would allocate that revenue to the sole purpose of reducing levy rates upon all properties in the affected taxing district. This is a tricky policy proposal; as we know that some school districts purchase land for a future school and lease the land to farmers or other private companies. However, it could reduce the amount of property tax paid by residential homeowners. Please contact Karen or me if your school district or charter school owns land but leases it out to a private third party.

HB 481 – Digital Curriculum Block Grants. This legislation seeks to change the distribution of a content and curriculum allocation to districts and schools from a support-unit approach to a grant approach. The money would be awarded to districts on a first-come, first-served basis and would be limited to \$50,000. However, we learned this could have a negative effect on schools and districts, as it does not *increase* the line item and only changes the distribution process. We heard from the bill sponsor late last week that it was being amended and would be pulled back at this time.

DON'T FORGET TO WATCH FOR FACEBOOK LIVE

In addition to our weekly Capitol Notes, we will be doing a weekly Facebook Live broadcast. It will be a quick, abbreviated version of Capitol Notes. So, if you don't have time to read all of this, please tune in live (or watch a recording later) of our quick recap of our Stand Up 4 Idaho Schools Facebook page:

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

ISBA LEGISLATION BASED ON RESOLUTIONS

Below is our progress on each of the ISBA Resolutions. Note that *italicized and bold language is an update from last week.*

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 can make some headway with a formation of a task force to study this issue.

Executive Session on Simple Majority (2019) – Completed

Status: This became law on July 1, 2019.

Funding for Full Day Kindergarten (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation about this and it was a recommendation by Governor Little’s Education Task Force. The good news is that he has asked for his literacy funding from last year, (which could be used for full-day kindergarten), to be ongoing. The bad news is that at this time, there has been little appetite to introduce legislation because of its high fiscal note.

Opposition to Public Funds Diverted to Private Schools (2019)

Status: This resolution does not require any legislation. *There was legislation printed this week by Senator Thayne that would allow for the use of Advanced Opportunity Dollars by non-public school students.*

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

Status: We have drafted legislation and secured sponsors for this legislation. However, after Quinn and Karen spoke with both of the Education Chairs, we are doubtful that this will move forward this year. We are hoping that we can get some support from the Governor’s Office in years to come.

Recourse for Charter School Renewals (2019) – Complete

Status: The House and Senate Education Committees have adopted this rule and it will go into effect upon adjournment of the legislature.

Strategic Plans and Reporting Requirements (2019) – Complete

Status: The changes to this statute went into effect on July 1, 2019.

Threats on School Grounds (2019) – Complete

Status: This legislation passed last year. However, the Idaho Supreme Court struck down the entire statute to which we added our language as unconstitutional before the bill even went into effect. The Supreme Court’s decision had an even larger impact on police officers in cases of domestic abuse of adults and children. They have introduced a joint resolution that would allow law enforcement to make a warrantless misdemeanor arrest based upon probable cause.

Local Control of Decision Making Regarding School Security (2020)

Status: This resolution does not require legislation. We do anticipate a bill to usurp local control of decision making regarding school security will surface at some point this session.

Updating § 33-802(5), Idaho Code to Extend School Levies (2020) - Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation has a bill sponsor and should be introduced once the committee completes their review of the administrative rules. The bill sponsor is leery of introducing anything related to taxes this year, so we may need to wait until next year to attempt to get this done.

40-50-60 Salary Allocation for Instructional & Pupil Service Staff (2020) – Legislation Needed

Status: HB 523 – please contact House members ASAP and ask for their support on this bill!

Task Force on Property Tax Reform (2020)

Status: This resolution does not require legislation. ISBA will monitor all changes to property tax reform.

Revision of Idaho Code on Excision (2020) – Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation has been drafted, and we have secured a bill sponsor. *HB501 on Excision passed out of House Education this week and is headed to the House Floor.*

Discussion of Sale of Public Property Within Executive Session (2020) – Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation has been introduced. *After thinking we did not have a sponsor for this bill, Representation Bill Goesling (R District 5) has agreed to run the bill. It had a rocky introduction in House State Affairs last week, and we may sit on this one for the year and work on it over the interim.*

Flexibility of Teaching Assignments (2020)

Status: After working to get this printed, we found that we needed to add some additional requirements to it in order to not conflict with IDEA or Title 1 funds. Instead, the Senate Education committee will review a “Teacher to New Endorsement” rule that could do nearly the same thing, but the teacher would be required to take a Praxis exam at some point during the year.

Aligning Idaho’s School Age & Accountability Requirements (2020) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted this legislation and secured a legislative sponsor. Please watch for updates on this resolution.

Support for Idaho Science Content Standards (2020)

Status: There is no legislation needed for this resolution. ISBA will testify in support of Idaho’s Content Standards, including science. *The Senate Education Committee passed the rules containing all Standards this week. They will remain in place.*

K-12 Funding Formula Principles (2020)

Status: There is no legislation needed for this resolution. ISBA will use these principles as guidance if the Legislature continues to rewrite the school funding formula.

Increased Reimbursements for Driver Training Programs (2020) – Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation has been drafted, and a bill sponsor has been secured. *This bill passed the Senate and is awaiting a hearing in the House Education committee.*

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 2020

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
HB 347	Limitations on Bond Elections	Passed House; awaiting hearing in Senate State Affairs	OPPOSE
HB 355	Freeze on Property Tax Levies	Became HB 409	Neutral
HB 364	School Year Start Date	Awaiting Hearing	OPPOSE
HB 388	Advance Enrollment for Military Students	Passed the House; awaiting Senate hearing	Neutral
HB 391	Update to Concussion and Head Injury Guidelines	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 393	School Levy and Bond Election Date Removal	Awaiting Hearing	OPPOSE
HB 409	Freeze on Property Tax Budgets	House Floor	Neutral
HB 430	Public Employee Damages	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 439	Public Notices, Electronic	Killed in House State Affairs	Support
HB 440	Discrimination in Hiring – Public Agencies	Passed House, awaiting Senate hearing	Neutral
HB 445	Public Works, Contracts	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 446	Professional Service Contracts	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 447	Public Works, Cost Estimates	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 448	PERSI Cost of Living	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 470	Student Literacy Online	Pulled back to committee	Neutral
HB 480	Bi-literacy Diplomas	House Floor	Neutral
HB 481	Digital Literacy Block Grants	Awaiting hearing, possibly receiving amendments	Reviewing
HB 501	Excision	House Floor	Support
HB 511	Charter Schools, Cash on hand, Revocation	Amending Order	Neutral
HB 512	Charter School Lottery, Weighting	House Floor	Neutral
HB 523	Teacher Funding – Adding another Rung	House Education	Support
HB 530	Executive Session – Sale of Public Property	House State Affairs	Support
HCR 30	PERSI Cost of Living Adjustments	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HJR 5	Public Owned Property that is Leased	House Floor	Reviewing
SB 1236	Educational Interpreters	LAW	Neutral
SB 1238	AP Government, Civics Test Requirement	LAW	Neutral
SB 1239	Flexible Schedule, Elementary Students	Reprinted, Now SB 1293	Neutral

SB1278	Driver Education	Passed the Senate; Headed to House Education	Support
SB1279	Superintendent Evaluations	Passed out of Senate; awaiting House hearing	Neutral
SB 1285	School Boards, Training	Passed out of Senate; awaiting House hearing	Neutral
SB 1293	Flexible Schedule, Elementary Students	Passed out of Senate; awaiting House hearing	Neutral
SB 1323	Teaching Certificate Revoked, Certain Crimes	Senate Floor	Neutral
SB 1324	Promise Mentor Program	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SB 1325	Non-certificated Employees – Grow Your Own	Senate Floor	Neutral
SB 1326	Quality Educator Loan Assistance	Awaiting Hearing	Support
SB 1327	School Funding Formula	Awaiting Hearing	<i>Reviewing</i>
SB 1328	Advanced Opportunities; Non-Public Schools	Awaiting Hearing	Oppose
SB 1329	Career Ladder; Career Technical Ed	Senate Floor	Support
SB 1330	Extended Employment Services Program	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SCR 120	ISAT Alternatives	House Floor	Neutral
SCR 122	Graduation Alternatives	Passed Senate; awaiting House hearing	Neutral
SCR 128	Personal Finance Class	Passed Senate; awaiting Senate hearing	Neutral
SCR 132	Content Standards Study Committee	Passed the Senate, awaiting hearing in House Education	Neutral
SCR 134	Property Taxes, Study Committee	Passed the Senate, awaiting House hearing	Neutral
SJR 103	Warrantless Misdemeanor Arrests Upon Probable Cause	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral