

CAPITOL



By Karen Echeverria, Executive Director

To our members: we know we are starting to sound like a broken record. Thank you for continuing to read and reaching out about these important bills! – Karen & Quinn

March 2, 2020
Issue 8

EIGHT WEEKS IN – THE END IS IN SIGHT

We are two months into the session and the weather has been gorgeous in Boise this week. Even though it's still winter, it feels like spring, and that gives me hope that we can see the light at the end of the tunnel for this legislative session.

Tuesday of this week is transmittal day. What is transmittal day? If the bill started in the Senate, the bill needs to be through the Senate process and "transmitted" to the House. Or, if it started in the House, it needs to be through that House process and transmitted to the Senate. Another sign that the legislature is working toward the end.

Finally, this year is an election year. Monday is the first day to file for office and next Friday is the last day. Once everyone knows whether or not they have opposition, they'll want to get back home so they can start campaigning.

SOME GOOD NEWS

We did get some good news this week. The Governor's bill to provide additional funding and the inclusion of another rung on the Career Ladder (HB523) passed out of the House Education Committee on a unanimous vote. Late on Friday afternoon, it passed the House 52-10 and heads to the Senate.

In addition, ISBA's bill on Excision passed the House Floor on a unanimous vote as well. That rarely happens, so we were pleasantly surprised. That bill now moves to the Senate.

PUBLIC EDUCATION BUDGET

The Joint Finance Appropriations Committee will make a decision on the K12 public education budget on Tuesday morning at 8 am. While not unheard of, it is unusual for this budget to be set so late in the year. Because the K12 budget literally makes up at least 50% of entire state budget, JFAC usually sets this budget earlier in the year. If you're interested in watching the proceedings you can do so from this link:

<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/ifac/>

TWO URGENT CALLS TO ACTION FOR THIS WEEK
HB393 – REMOVAL OF MARCH AND AUGUST ELECTION DATES
HB347 – BOND LIMITATIONS

I keep hoping that we won't need to keep sending these calls to action but we are still trying to stop these two bills.

HB 393 –would remove March and August election dates. Despite all our efforts, we were unsuccessful in keeping this bill from passing first the House State Affairs Committee and then the House Floor last week. Below is the final vote on the House Floor. If your Representative was one of those who voted no, we would ask that you send them a quick thank you note.

Voting on - H 393			AYE	NAY	ABS	MISSING
			45	20	5	
Abernathy	Christensen	Goesling	Mendive	Smith		
Addis	Clow	Green	Monks	Stevenson		
Amador	Collins	Harris	Moon	Syme		
Anderson	Crane	Hartgen	Moyle	Toone		
Anderst	Davis	Holtzclaw	Necochea	Troy		
Andrus	DeMordaunt	Horman	Nichols	Vander Woude		
Armstrong	Dixon	Kauffman	Palmer	Wagoner		
Barbieri	Ehardt	Kerby	Raybould	Wintrow		
Bedke	Ellis	Kingsley	Raymond	Wisniewski		
Berch	Furniss	Kiska	Remington	Wood		
Blanksma	Gannon	Lickley	Ricks	Young		
Boyle	Gestrin	Marshall	Rubel	Youngblood		
Chaney	Gibbs	Mason	Scott	Zito		
Chew	Giddings	McCrostie	Shepherd	Zollinger		

We believe this could have very significant negative impacts on school districts and could create impossible hurdles to financial stability for many.

HB 347 would limit school districts' ability to 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.

Both of these bills will be debated in the Senate State Affairs Committee so we ask that if you have a legislator on that Committee that you continue to put pressure on them to oppose this bill. We know many of have already done so but the more they hear from you, the more likely they will be to vote no. Remember to tell them how these bills will impact your school districts.

Contact the Senate State Affairs committee ASAP, and ask them to hold HB 393 and HB 347 in committee:
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2020/standingcommittees/SSTA/>

You can also contact your Senators, should the bill get to the full floor.
Senate Membership: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/senate/membership/>

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 last week by Senator Thayne that would allow for the use of Advanced Opportunity Dollars by non-public school students. ISBA will oppose this. *This bill still has not been heard in Senate Education.*

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 – this is the Governor's bill that has passed out of House Education and is currently on the House Floor. We ask you to continue to reach out to your representatives and ask that they support 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 the House Floor with a unanimous vote. It is now headed to the Senate Education Committee.*

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

Status: This legislation has been introduced. *We thought we didn't have a sponsor for this bill, but Representation Bill Goesling (R District 5) has agreed to run it. 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 requirements. *Instead, the Senate Education committee approved 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 On the Senate Floor	Neutral
HB 391	Update to Concussion and Head Injury Guidelines	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HB 393	School Levy and Bond Election Date Removal	Passed House Awaiting Hearing in House State Affairs	OPPOSE
HB 409	Freeze on Property Tax Budgets	Passed House Awaiting Hearing in Senate Tax	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	Passed House On the Senate Floor	Neutral
HB 481	Digital Literacy Block Grants	Awaiting hearing, possibly receiving amendments	Reviewing
HB 501	Excision	Passed Floor Awaiting Hearing in Senate	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	Passed the House, awaiting Senate hearing	Support
HB 530	Executive Session – Sale of Public Property	House State Affairs	Support
HB554	School Funding for Classroom Supplies	Killed in House Ed	Neutral
HB555	Literacy Intervention Tools	House Education	Neutral

HCR 30	PERSI Cost of Living Adjustments	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
HJR 5	Public Owned Property that is Leased	Pulled back to Committee	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 1323a	Teaching Certificate Revoked, Certain Crimes	Passed out of Senate; awaiting House hearing	Neutral
SB 1324	Promise Mentor Program	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SB 1325	Non-certificated Employees – Grow Your Own	Passed out of Senate; awaiting House hearing	Neutral
SB 1326	Quality Educator Loan Assistance	Awaiting Hearing	Support
SB 1327	School Funding Formula	Awaiting Hearing	Reviewing
SB 1328	Advanced Opportunities; Non-Public Schools	Awaiting Hearing	Oppose
SB 1329	Career Ladder; Career Technical Ed	Passed out of Senate; awaiting House hearing	Support
SB 1330	Extended Employment Services Program	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SB 1362	Open Meetings/AG Ability to Review	Senate Judiciary Committee	Neutral
SCR 120	ISAT Alternatives	Headed to the Secretary of State for Acceptance	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 104	Warrantless Misdemeanor Arrests Upon Probable Cause	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral