



CAPITOL  
NOTES  
A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE IDAHO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION • 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



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Welcome back to Capitol Notes. For those of you who are new to this publication, this is a weekly publication that one of ISBA's Legislative Staff will write during each week of the legislative session, giving a recap of what happened last week and what will be coming up this week surrounding the Idaho State Legislature.

This year, we're utilizing bill tracking software that can help connect you straight back to the legislature's website. Last year, we received feedback that it would be more beneficial to our members to receive Capitol Notes on Fridays—giving you more time over the weekend to review, make calls to action, and have meaningful contact with your legislators.

**A few things to note:** Positions of the Idaho School Boards Association are determined two ways. First, by ISBA Resolutions which are voted on annually at the business session. Secondly, by the Government Affairs Committee of ISBA which uses guiding principles and are outlined on Page 1 of the 2022 Resolutions. To view all active ISBA Resolutions, [visit our website at this link](#).

**A brief recap of the week:** Governor Brad Little kicked off the 2022 Legislative Session on January 10th with his State of the State address. His proposed increase – if adopted by the legislature – would be one of the largest increases in the public school's budget in state history and totals 11% from the previous fiscal year, including many priorities supported by the Idaho School Boards Association members:

- Accelerates implementation of the FY2023 Career Ladder allocation schedule – totaling \$104 million.
- Recommends \$1,000 bonuses for all teachers to reflected increased workload – totaling \$17.8 million.
- Recommends a 5% increase in base pay for Classified Staff.
- Increases the state contribution for school staff health insurance premiums by \$4,000 per school staff member – totaling \$105 million. In addition, there are one-time funds to buy-in to the state health insurance plan if a school district or charter chooses to explore that option. The recommendation also phases out Leadership Premiums, totaling roughly \$18 million, to offset this cost.
- Increases the literacy intervention line item by \$47 million for schools/districts which may be utilized towards full-day kindergarten or reading intervention specialists.
- Recommends \$50 million for “Empowering Parents Grants”, which builds on his “Strong Families, Strong Students” grant programs for parents to use towards eligible education expenses.

While we await further details on some of these proposals, we still encourage ISBA members to contact their legislative delegation to support these fiscal priorities.

**Need help navigating the Idaho Legislature?** To stay up to date on what is happening in the 2022 Legislative Session

visit their website. **A few helpful links:**

Find your legislative representatives [here](#).

Find the House Committee Agendas [here](#).

Find the Senate Committee Agendas [here](#).



Our call to action this week is for HB 437 and HCR27. Please read the staff analysis and contact your legislator to explain the impact of each proposal.

### Color Coded Bill Key:

**Pink:** Bills that are urgent | **Green:** ISBA Sponsored Bill | **Yellow:** Monitoring - Impact | **Blue:** Monitoring - No Expected Impact

**Tracking:** Monitoring - Impact | **H 0438** | **Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding appointments and elections to fill vacant school trustee positions following a recall or resignation resulting from a recall petition.**

**Introduced:** 01/13/2022 | **Last Action:** Jan 13, 2022 - Introduced, read first time, referred to JRA for Printing

**Our Position:** Neutral

#### Staff Analysis:

This concept - similar to HB350 from the 2021 Session - changes how vacancies are filled following a successful recall election or resignations following the filing of a recall petition. If there is an election date (using the 4 dates for school districts) within 85 days, the vacated seat will remain vacant unfilled until that election. If it is *within* 100 days of an election, the seat shall also remain vacant until the election, in which that newly elected trustee will serve the remainder of that zone's term (unless that zone was already up for re-election on that date, in which they'll fill out the next full term). If more than one trustee is recalled and the Board no longer has a quorum, the county commission will step-in to appoint only one member so that the Board can conduct it's business until the next election. If it's more than 100 days to the next election, the Board may appoint a temporary trustee until a new trustee is elected at the next possible election.

**While we have concerns about the complications of this legislation, the ISBA GAC voted to remain neutral, as we believe that citizens *can* and *should* be involved in the process of electing trustees from their respective communities. In addition, school board members are one of the few - if not only - public bodies that appoints vacant seats themselves. **If you want to express your thoughts or sign up to testify, contact: House State Affairs Committee.****

**Tracking:** Urgent | **H 0437** | **Adds to existing law provide for the adoption of the content standards prepared by the 2020-2021 content standards review committees.**

**Introduced:** 01/13/2022 | **Last Action:** Jan 13, 2022 - Introduced, read first time, referred to JRA for Printing

**Our Position:** Oppose

#### Staff Analysis:

This legislation would force the State Board of Education - by July 1, 2022 - to adopt and incorporate the draft of the Idaho content stands for English Language Arts and Literacy, Math, and Science prepared by the 2020 - 2021 standards review committee which was completed July 13, 2021. It would also state that each school district and charter school boards have until June 30, 2024 to incorporate curricular materials that correspond with these new content standards. **Based on 2022 ISBA Resolution No. 5, the ISBA is opposed to this legislation. The ISBA is not opposed to a review and proposed revision of content standards, but without an independent review of the changes in the proposed revision, it could create fiscal instability and wreck havoc on our educators ability to**

implement the standards. Content standards drive everything at the local level from curricular materials adoption, to teacher professional development, and assessments. The ISBA respectfully requests a thorough analysis about what has changed within each content section, and once determined, requests an appropriate time frame and financial resources for school districts and charter schools to implement these new standards in a predictable and stable manner. **Who to contact: House Education Committee.**

**Tracking:** Urgent | [HCR 0027](#) | Adds to existing law to reject certain rules of the State Board of Education relating to Idaho Content Standards.

**Introduced:** 01/13/2022 | **Last Action:** Jan 13, 2022 - Introduced, read first time, referred to JRA for Printing

**Our Position:** Oppose

**Staff Analysis:**

This concurrent resolution would reject - in their entirety - Idaho's content standards for English Language Arts, Math, and Science. It was introduced and is paired with HB437. **Based on 2022 ISBA Resolution No. 5, the ISBA is opposed to this rejection. The ISBA is not opposed to a review and proposed revision of content standards, but without an independent review of the changes in the proposed revisions, it could create fiscal instability and wreck havoc on our educators ability to implement the standards. Content standards drive everything at the local level from curricular materials adoption, to teacher professional development, and assessments. The ISBA respectfully requests a thorough analysis about what has changed within each content section, and once determined, requests an appropriate time frame and financial resources for school districts and charter schools to implement these new standards in a predictable and stable manner. Who to contact: House Education Committee.**

**Tracking:** Monitoring - Impact | [H 0436](#) | Amends existing law to revise the individual and corporate income tax rate and to provide for an income tax rebate.

**Introduced:** 01/12/2022 | **Last Action:** Jan 13, 2022 - Reported Printed and Referred to Revenue & Taxation

**Our Position:** Neutral

**Staff Analysis:**

This legislation consolidates the income tax brackets from five to four, lowers each rate, and makes it retroactive to January 1, 2022. Additionally, it lowers the income tax rates to 6% retroactively, and provides a one-time tax rebate of \$350 million, returning 12% of 2020 personal income tax - or \$75 for each taxpayer and dependent - whichever is greater. Because it has a possible impact to Idaho's general fund, ISBA is monitoring impact. However, we are neutral to the bill.

Please contact Misty, Quinn, or Catherine if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Your ISBA Legislative Team

