



Week 11 Idaho Legislative Update for March 21 – March 25, 2022

The eleventh week of the Sixty-Sixth Idaho Legislature's Second Regular Session ended just before midnight on Friday as the last budget bill, the appropriation for the Commission on Libraries, passed on the record-setting fifth try. Both the House and Senate finished their work and are now in recess until Thursday, March 31st at 11:00 AM. Upon their return, they will consider any bills the Governor may veto before hopefully adjourning Sine Die for the rest of the year. With a recess on the 75th legislative day, legislators will continue to receive pay and per diem through the end of month, although most of them are returning home for the duration of the recess.

We often say in the Capitol “an hour is a day, a day is a week, a week is a month, and month is a year”. That certainty felt true this week, especially when budgets that easily passed in previous years, got attacked in acts of political grandstanding. Aside from the noise, this year was a successful and positive session with process, policy, and a heavy dose of politics mixed into what felt like much more of a normal session.

Before recess, this week saw the massive influx of long-awaited bills reach the Governor's desk. Governor Little and his staff have worked night and day to process and treat each bill. With this massive influx came another veto, this time on the appropriation for the Office of Information Technology Services. This veto sent a strong message to the legislature on cyber security and IT management and not tying the hands of agencies who work year-round to serve the state.

Committees continued meeting through the week and JFAC even met multiple times Friday, including a late-night Friday meeting to take up the failed libraries budget for a fifth time. Prior to that, JFAC met earlier in the day to redo the vetoed IT budget as well as reworking the libraries' budget for a fourth time. After motions, substitute motions, and fiery debate, the new libraries' budget, with millions of dollars in reductions, passed out of committee, and considered by the House for a fifth time. The budget finally passed, but only after a last-second resolution pertaining to content and standards for libraries, introduced by House Ways and Means Committee, quickly passed the House Floor.

Throughout the week, the House floor sessions lasted many hours, despite the Speaker and Majority Leader trying to move quickly to wrap things up. We continued to see galling parliamentary theatrics, campaign rhetoric, and uncouth tactics by some on the House Floor in addition to exhaustive debates and more budgets voted down. Meanwhile, the Senate flew through pages and pages of appropriations and other policies, including several bills that received amendments and quickly passed out of the Senate. One such bill, HB 735aaS, included a \$34 million, ongoing property tax cut. The Senate worked through several long sessions each day this week, which also meant going into the evenings when the House and most everyone else had left the building.

There were also several bittersweet moments this week as committees wrapped up and longtime chairmen were honored by committee members, staff, families, and others. It is a testament to much of the great work, long hours, and dedication the committee chairmen have shown over the years. As we now move into a hurried campaign season, we will always remember fondly the statesmen who carried bills with honor, integrity, and a commitment to leave the state a better place than they found it.

We now wait for the Governor to finish treating all bills and for the Idaho Legislature to return and finish session on Thursday March 31st. While we sincerely believe they should adjourn Sine Die next week. This legislature has shown us they don't have an appetite to give away the spotlight. So only time will tell.

All bills from the 2022 Idaho Legislative Session are on the [Idaho State Legislative Website](#).

The Governor's “Bill Tracker” is [HERE](#) and the State of the State and Budget Highlights can be viewed [HERE](#). All legislative and statewide candidates who filed to run for office can be found [HERE](#).



Benn Brocksome
&
ASSOCIATES

Policies, Appropriations, and Rules Updates:

Policies

HB 683 – Driver’s Education, Parents (57-11-2) Passed the House – Held in Senate Transportation Committee

Oppose

This legislation would allow qualifying parents and legal guardians to be private educators for Class D Driver’s Training Instruction Permits. This legislation aims to enable citizens from rural areas who must travel long distances to take their children to required public or private driver’s education instructors and provide equal opportunity for children of all income levels to test for a driver’s license by reducing the need to pay expensive fees for private education.

Sponsor: Rep. Mendive (R-3)

SB 1307 – License Plates, Display Held in Senate Transportation Committee

Oppose

In a change to State Code, this bill would allow for motorists to only need one plate that is shown on the rear of their vehicle.

Sponsor: Sen. Patrick (R-25).

HB 616aaS – Private Foundations, Charitable Trusts, Non-Profits, Privacy To the Governor

This bill aims to protect private foundations and charitable trusts by clarifying that the only business reports they would need to file are those required under the State’s Nonprofit Act and consumer protection laws.

Sponsor: Rep. Troy (R-5)

HB 529 – Vehicle Registration Stickers House Transportation & Defense Committee

This proposal would eliminate the requirement that license plates have stickers identifying the month and year of expiration, as law enforcement are already adequately-equipped with technology that can determine if plates are expired or not. This proposal is expected to save the DMV \$350,000 the first year, then \$650,000 for subsequent years in dedicated funds.

Sponsor: Rep. Palmer (R-20)

HB 597 – Driver’s License, Revoked, Fines (27-43) Failed in the House

Amends and adds to existing law to provide for reinstatement of a driver’s license upon proof of penalty payment and to provide for the suspension of a driver’s license upon a failure to pay an infraction penalty.

Sponsor: Rep. Chaney (R-10)

SB 1281 – Auto Insurance Coverage, Underinsured Motorists Held in Senate Commerce & Human Resources

This proposed legislation would modify and bring more clarity to coverage limits available to consumers with respect to underinsured motor vehicle coverage. The proposed legislation provides that any underinsured motor vehicle coverage with limits of liability less than two times the Idaho minimum limits for bodily injury or death shall be construed to provide coverage in excess of the liability coverage of any underinsured motor vehicle involved in the accident.

Sponsor: Sen. Guthrie (R-28)

SB 1239aa – Legislative Session Uniformity (28-6-1) Passed the Senate – House State Affairs Committee

Ensures that each regular session of the legislature shall adjourn by a certain date. It is intended to keep the legislative session uniform and part time but makes exceptions for declared disasters and emergency events.

Sponsor: Sen. Guthrie (R-28)



[HCR 40 – State of Disaster Emergency Ending \(42-25-3\)](#) Passed the House – Senate State Affairs Committee

This concurrent resolution is to end to the current state of disaster emergency that has been ongoing to the past two years. It states the State of Emergency is no longer needed and this will bring it to an end.

Sponsor: Rep. Scott (R-1) and Rep. Christensen (R-32)

[SB 1397 – Negotiated Rulemaking Process](#) Sent to the 14th Order for Amendment

This allows for legislatures to have a negotiated rulemaking process for all temporary rules that are not approved by the legislature the following session. This bill is to ensure that the rulemaking process is transparent and that temporary rulemaking is only used for emergency situations.

Sponsor: Sen. Anthon (R-27)

[HB 436 – Income Taxes](#) Signed into Law

[HB 450 – Unemployment Insurance Tax Rates](#) Signed into Law

[HCR 33 – Honoring Brian Ness](#) Adopted

[HJM 5 – Memorial Opposing Washington Fuel Tax](#) Adopted

[HB 506 – Armed Forces Scholarships](#) Signed into Law

[SB 1267 – Check Station Updates](#) Signed into Law

[HB 526 – Commercial License Reinstatement](#) Signed into Law

[HCR 42 – ITD Fee Rule Approval](#) Adopted

[HB 523 – Driver's Licenses](#) Signed into Law

[HB 524 – Transportation, Interagency Work Group](#) Signed into Law

[HB 525 – Commercial Driver's Permits](#) Signed into Law

[HB 528 – Personal Delivery Devices](#) Signed into Law

Oppose

[HB 539 – Suspended Driver's Licenses](#) Signed into Law

[HB 527 – Driver's Licenses, Citizenship](#) Signed into Law



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Appropriations and Budgets

[SB 1359 – ITD Appropriation, FY22 Supplemental](#) Signed into Law

The Governor’s Press Release for the transportation bill signing can be found [here](#).



[HB 772 - Transportation Services Division, FY23 Appropriation](#). Signed into Law

[HB 763 – Department of Environmental Quality, FY23 Appropriation](#) Signed into Law

Rules

[HERE](#) is the link for the Index of all Proposed Rules seeking legislative approval. Committees in both the House and Senate are assigned rules to approve. As a reminder, if a rules docket pass either House or the Senate, they are set to go into effect but need to be enacted by legislation or executive order.

Approved Rules:

[39-0000-2100](#) - Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking – Pending Rule – Idaho Transportation Department

[39-0000-2100F](#) - Notice of Omnibus Rulemaking (Fee Rule) – Pending Rule - Idaho Transportation Department

[39-0343-2102](#) - Rules Governing Utilities on State Highway Right-of-Way (New Chapter, Fee Rule) - Pending Rule

Appointments

- Gary Osborn’s re-appointment to the Idaho Transportation Board was confirmed on March 8th, 2022.