

IAC Legislative Committee

January 27, 2025 | 12:00 pm – 2:30 pm MST
850 W Front St, Boise Centre, Room 130 | Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | Chair Don Hall

Valley Coroner Scott Carver motioned to approve the January 22nd minutes, seconded by Valley Commissioner Sherry Maupin. Motion carried.

Priorities

H0033 | Public Notices

- Committee hearing in State Affairs on Wednesday. More updates to come after that hearing.

IGA-07 | Consolidated Elections

- Brandon Mitchell to hopefully become the sponsor for this bill. More updates to come next week.

IGA-10 | Tourism Tax + JPS-01 | 911 Grant Fee

- Trying to get a bill introduced to be used for roads, E-911, EMS, and general public safety needs at the county level. IAC has been asked to draft two bills, one that increases the tax which would include 3% going to counties, 1% going to the State and another bill that bifurcates the tax. Members of the committee are encouraged to warm their legislators to the idea to help move it forward.

IGA-11 | Procurement / Responsible Bidder

- One of the aspects of the bill will raise the threshold to \$100,000 of minimum exemption amount from bid requirements. This should be accomplished easily. The other half is to bring parity between state and local governments. For local governments the language only specifies the 'lowest bidder', rather than the language that exists for the State which is 'lowest responsible and bidder'. This can create complications for counties when bidders are inexperienced or unresponsive.

IGA-13 | Completing Public Defense Reform

- IAC met last week with 6 legislators, Senators Lakey, Burns, Burtenshaw, and Representatives Weber, Manwaring, and Skaug. This group met with the legal counsel to start the process of trying to hash out some potential legislation solutions to the public defense transition. A lot of the discussion will be around the costs and who is responsible for what costs. Another core issue outside of funding is the structure itself, and who is really overseeing public defense. The estimated cost when the transfer occurred was \$52 million a year, but the appropriation request for this year will bring this number up to approximately \$88 million. Discussion around narrowing the timeline allowing Counties to exit even sooner and foregoing utilities payments. Follow-up next Wednesday to discuss this further.

Policies

IGA-01 | PTR Benefit Increase

- Rep. McCan had to cancel a meeting, so IAC will reconnect next Wednesday. So more information to come on this policy next week, however, a \$400 million tax relief package in the legislature may cause difficulty on this policy.

IGA-02 | Youth Vape Prevention

- Updates to come next week.

IGA-03 | Coroner Records: Public Records Exemption (pull from agenda)

- Would exempt certain coroner records. After a meeting with legislators, the legislature doesn't seem very keen on a bill that reduces transparency.

IGA-09 | Hospital Property Tax Exemption

- Rep. Tanner has two bills right now. One would take the law back to where it was in the late 1990s so that hospitals operate as any other non-profit organization. The other idea would grant commissioners authority over when they grant the exemption. Drafts are in the works and will be introduced in the next week or two for more information.

IGA-12 | Allow District Boards of Health to Set Food Establishment License Fees

- Commissioner Brooks will be meeting with Rep. Razor who is interested in carrying this bill. A few changes will be made in LSO and then it will be sent out to health districts for feedback. More information to come.

JPS-02 | Coroner Powers/Duties, Definition, Education/Standards

- Draft moving along nicely. One concern after sharing it with the Idaho Sheriff's Association was surrounding jurisdiction over scenes and bodies, and coroners re-worked the legislation to hopefully get support from the Sheriff's.

JPS-04 | EMS Identified as Critical by State Legislature

- Sponsored by Rep. Sauter. Would move EMS bureau to military divisions to be under the office of emergency management. The statement of purpose includes \$2.2 million dollars to be appropriated into the emergency medical services fund and that would be distributed out to counties to help administer EMS.

TRI-01 | Solid Waste Disposal Responsibility

- There is a current draft that is being reworked after some additional feedback was received. Still being worked on and this legislation is getting closer.

Updates

H0014 | Idaho Code Cleanup

- Heard in Senate State Affairs today, and sailed through the committee. The co-sponsor will be the Pro-Temp and Speaker of the House.

H0018 | Electric Vehicle Building Code (SUPPORT)

- No new update at this point.

H0025 | TECM Sales Tax

- Bill has been introduced, but probably won't be scheduled for a hearing for a while. There are a number of bills that have been introduced that are kind of a package of tax relief, and this will be a part of that. More information will come as the remaining bill(s) are introduced.

Highway District Special Levy (OPPOSE)

- What was drafted would have required a county or highway district to maximize their 'A' levy before you could begin levying the 'B' levy. The 'A' levy is shared with cities, the 'B' levy is not. So ultimately, this would take money away from the counties. The goal is to bifurcate levy 'A' between cities and counties, and discussion around this will take place later this week.

Apprentices

- No update this week.

Short Term Rentals

- No update this week.

Kilowatt Hour Tax

- IAC held discussions with Rep. Monks and Rep. Ehlers, who will bring stakeholders to the table to find a path forward. Conceptually, it is consistent with what it has been since last year. One important aspect is that the 4-R act will be codified to prevent future lawsuits. Potential for a BTU tax to apply to natural gas companies/utilities, after those companies showed interest in being included. There will also be conversation around the assessment of NUG's.

Solar Tax

- Would bring parity between wind and solar, and everything would be treated like wind. No timeline on introduction, so updates to come.

Domestic Water

- Slowly moving forward, and there is a desire to get something done this year. Co-sponsored by the Pro-Temp and Speaker of the House. Further navigation around areas of impact issues will need to be solved on the county side, along with a few other elements. More updates to come after discussions take place.

County Fair Boards

- This bill has been proposed because there is some fear in Agriculture that once counties grow to a certain size, they won't value the fair as much. More information to come as discussions are had with stakeholders.

New Legislation

H0032 | Mask Mandates

- Heard in the House State Affairs committee this morning. It is a preemption bill that has been reintroduced from last year and it didn't make it through the Senate, but still felt necessary to bring to the counties attention. Currently if a county or city wanted to put in an ordinance for a mask mandate, they could do that. This legislation seeks to prevent that.

H0058 | Medicaid Expansion Repeal

- This bill removes a section of eligibility making individuals 18-64 at 133% below the poverty level eligible for the program. More digging is needed to ensure clarity on the impact on counties and ensure no costs will fall back onto the counties.

Potential New Legislation

Idaho Public Funds

- Would allow credit unions to accept more than \$250,000 from local entities. Credit unions want to remove that cap because it hasn't changed since 1986. Their ability to provide services is tied to this cap, so this would benefit rural branches.

Agricultural Buildings

- This policy is intended to address an issue related to "what is, and what isn't, an agricultural building". Meant to address buildings such as 'barndominiums'. Strictly designed to address what building codes apply when a building isn't truly an agricultural building.

General Discussion

- H0013 - Children don't have to wear helmets in a UTV if it has a rollcage and seatbelts. Language has been adjusted to include that individuals under the age of 16 would be required to wear their seatbelt, as it previously didn't specify that.

Adjournment @ 1:25

IAC Legislative Committee

MEMBERSHIP

*MEMBERS HIGHLIGHTED WERE IN ATTENDANCE

CHAIR Don Hall <i>Twin Falls Commissioner</i>	VICE CHAIR Tom Dayley <i>Ada Commissioner</i>	
Bruce Mattare <i>District 1: Kootenai Commissioner</i>	Donavan Harrington <i>District 5: Bingham Assessor</i>	Annette Dygert <i>IACT: Owyhee Treasurer</i>
Chris Goetz <i>District 2: Clearwater Sheriff</i>	Brent Mendenhall <i>District 6: Madison Commissioner</i>	Vic Pearson <i>IPAA: Franklin Prosecutor</i>
Sherry Maupin <i>District 3: Valley Commissioner</i>	Hollie Ann Strang <i>IACA: Gem Assessor</i>	Andy Creech <i>ISA: Payette Sheriff</i>
Ben Crouch <i>District 4: Jerome Commissioner</i>	Jared Orton <i>IACC: Minidoka Commissioner</i>	Scott Carver <i>ISACC: Valley Coroner</i>
	Trent Tripple <i>IACRC: Ada Clerk</i>	

ALTERNATES

Phil Lampert <i>District 1: Benewab Commissioner</i>	Eric Jackson <i>District 5: Bingham Commissioner</i>	Elizabeth Mahn <i>IACT: Ada Treasurer</i>
Brad Higgins <i>District 2: Idaho Commissioner</i>	Shayne Young <i>District 6: Jefferson Commissioner</i>	Vacant <i>IPAA:</i>
Zach Brooks <i>District 3: Canyon Commissioner</i>	Josh Dison <i>IACA: Elmore Assessor</i>	Matt Clifford <i>ISA: Ada Sheriff</i>
Vacant <i>District 4:</i>	Kim Keeley <i>IACRC: Teton Clerk</i>	Pam Garlock <i>ISACC: Boise Coroner</i>

*More attendees listed below

IAC Staff

Seth Grigg

Sara Westbrook

Kelli Brassfield

Chase Christensen

Clay Boeckel

More