

IAC Legislative Committee

March 27, 2024 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm MST
700 W. Washington St. Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | Chair Don Hall

Nez-Perce Commissioner Doug Zenner motioned to approve the March 20th, 2024 minutes. Owyhee Treasurer Anette Dyugert seconded. Motion passed.

Prioritize Resolutions

- **H0530 Emergency Communications Fee (no update needed):** No update.
- **H0739 Hospital Property Tax Exemption:** New bill got introduced. Modifications were made to address concerns of the hospital, but at this time of the session it doesn't appear there will be enough time to move forward. Chairman is not committed to giving it a hearing.
- **S1403 Area of Impact Agreements:** Passed out of the House of Local Gov. Committee with a do-pass recommendation (10-6 vote). Passed the House 69-1. On its way to the governor so it should become law by July 1st.
- **S1416 Essential Emergency Medical Services:** EMS passed the Senate last week 26-9 vote. In the House it was routed to State Affairs and will not get a hearing. Unfortunately this bill is dead.

IAC Policies

- **County Travel + Convention Tax (no update needed):** No update.

Updates

- **H0521 Taxation, School Facilities, and Funds (SUPPORT):** Passed the Senate with a 23-11 vote. A positive aspect of this bill is that it allows county treasurers to calculate homeowners tax relief based on current year rather than prior year, as well as funding for CPS cases. H0521 is in the governor's office and it is anticipated that it will be signed into law today. Some trailer bills are attached to this, however they aren't impactful to counties so they are not of any concern.
- **H0588 Public Records Request Deadlines (SUPPORT):** Signed by governor and will go into law July 1st. Two different records for public deadlines dependent upon whether or not an individual is an Idaho resident.

- **H0593 PTO for Employees Hired by State Public Defender (SUPPORT):** It has been signed into law by the governor.
- **H0608 Agricultural Protection Areas:** Amended to incorporate the change we requested for existing rights-of-way. The Senate approved the amendments and it was sent to the House. The House approved amendments and it is now on its way to the governor for signature. Meeting with the Farm Bureau in the next week or two to discuss more ways to make this process smoother for the counties. Anticipating continuous work with the Farm Bureau in the future.
- **H0620aa Knives Pre-emption (OPPOSITION):** Passed the House and the Senate. Governor hasn't signed it yet, but it is anticipated that he will sign it.
- **H0625 Equalization of Assessments (OPPOSITION):** Failed in committee and have not seen it try to become resurrected.
- **H0638a Strategic Initiative Grants, LHTAC (SUPPORT):** This bill has been delivered to the governor, but has not been signed as of yet.
- **H0646 Counties, Boundaries (SUPPORT):** Bill has been delivered to governor, but not yet signed.
- **H0651 Sheriff Reimbursement (SUPPORT):** Doubtful it will get a hearing in the Senate, but it did pass through the House. After further discussion, it doesn't appear there is a way for Sheriff reimbursement as previously mentioned.
- **H0697 Public Defender, Sick Time (SUPPORT):** Heading to governor for signature.
- **H0717 Homestead Exemption Status (OPPOSITION):** Was sent to general orders and it was not amended. It appears this bill is dead for the session.
- **S1258 Public Rights-of-Way (OPPOSITION):** Still being held at the desk with the transportation committee in the House. Likely dead for the year (no guarantees).
- **S1365aa Next of Kin Database (SUPPORT):** Signed by the governor and is now law.
- **S1367 Public Defense Guardian Ad Litem Fund (SUPPORT):** Heard in House Judiciary, Rules, & Administration Committee this morning and came off unanimously and will be heard on the House floor. This bill removes counties' responsibility for the financial side of CPS cases and moves it to the Office of the Public Defender.
- **S1420 Solid Waste Disposal Sites (OPPOSITION):** Will not be moving forward this year. Working with stakeholders in a couple weeks to discuss the issues of this bill.

New Legislation

- **H0723 Idaho Transportation Department:** Appropriations (non-maintenance budget for ITD). It has \$200 million in bridge funding for local governments and \$121 million for local road maintenance that will go through the highways distribution account. This bill barely made it out of the House by a single vote late last week. Currently doesn't seem it will have the votes to get off the floor of the Senate. An issue in the policy language directs ITD to move back into their former headquarters on state street and appropriates \$37.5

million dollars to remodel that building and move back in. It is controversial because an agreement was reached with a developer to buy the parcel for \$50 million dollars and develop them. Lot of individuals are clashing over this particular policy piece in the bill. Concerning because these funds need to be distributed out to highways and counties. This is the general fund money and is not related to sales tax funds (counties will still receive sales tax funds). If the bill fails, it goes back to JFAC and the budget writers will have to write a new bill. If it gets to that point, lobbying with JFAC will have to take place to ensure that money will reach local governments. Public statements indicate that some legislators don't want to give up the ITD property on state street just in case it needs it in the future. Meanwhile others feel it would be cheaper to refurbish that building, etc. An asphalt testing lab still in use on state street would have to be moved out to Chinden which would also be expensive (the lab is a multi-million dollar lab). Problem is the potential credibility of the State backing out of the deal that was going to allow the developer to buy the land.

- **H0728 County Commissioners, Highways:** This bill clarifies and includes language that is in other statutes related to highways, that any new highways are to be for the primary benefit of motorists. Tension in Ada county with ACHD because lanes are being taken away from roads they control and turning them into bike lanes, so that is the intent behind this bill. Unsure it will move forward this year.
- **H0729 Highways and Bridges:** This bill is advancing and is on the way to the Senate after being passed out of the House. Targeting more urban roads and developments. If granted a hearing in the Senate, it is anticipated that it will pass through the Senate as well.
- **H0736 Rate Regulated Utilities:** Previously H0702. Exempt rate-regulated utilities from property taxation and introduce a new kilowatt hour tax in place. Some issues of H0702 were worked through, but given issues that rate-regulated utilities have with it, it will likely not make it through legislation this year. This bill includes all situs properties in the exemption, and bases replacement money on shared property taxes collected from rate-regulated utilities. The rate on this bill was set at 0.0113, which is closer to the five (5) year average of property taxes paid by electric rate-regulated utility companies. Prepare for more work on this over the interim, as it will likely be a key item in the 2025 legislative session.
- **HCR046 Timber and Grazing:** Could be problematic because of the language within the bill. When the State does any land exchange or acquires land that comes off the tax rolls and creates a shift in the counties. Particularly in counties with timber and grazing lands, and a policy of acquisition by the State could create a problem, although the benefits to counties can vary depending on who acquires the land and how it is used.

Open Discussion

- Shoutout to all of the hard work that the entire committee has done this year!

IAC Legislative Committee

MEMBERSHIP

*MEMBERS HIGHLIGHTED WERE IN ATTENDANCE

<p>CHAIR Don Hall <i>Twin Falls Commissioner</i></p>	<p>VICE CHAIR Tom Dayley <i>Ada Commissioner</i></p>	
<p>Luke Omodt <i>District 1: Bonner Commissioner</i></p>	<p>Mark Bair <i>District 5: Bingham Commissioner</i></p>	<p>Annette Dygert <i>LACT: Owyhee Treasurer</i></p>

<p>Tom Lamar <i>District 2: Latah Commissioner</i></p> <p>Sherry Maupin <i>District 3: Valley Commissioner</i></p> <p>Wayne Schenk <i>District 4: Minidoka Commissioner</i></p>	<p>Brent Mendenhall <i>District 6: Madison Commissioner</i></p> <p>Hollie Ann Strang <i>IACA: Gem Assessor</i></p> <p>Doug Zenner <i>IACC: Nez Perce Commissioner</i></p> <p>Kim Keeley <i>IACRC: Teton Clerk</i></p>	<p>Vic Pearson <i>IPAA: Franklin Prosecutor</i></p> <p>Kieran Donahue <i>ISA: Canyon Sheriff</i></p> <p>Scott Carver <i>ISACC: Valley Coroner</i></p>

ALTERNATES

<p>Phil Lampert <i>District 1: Benewah Commissioner</i></p> <p>Justin McCleod <i>District 2: Lewis Commissioner</i></p> <p>Zachary Brooks <i>District 3: Canyon Assessor</i></p> <p>Ben Crouch <i>District 4: Jerome Commissioner</i></p>	<p>Donavan Harrington <i>District 5: Bingham Assessor</i></p> <p>Shayne Young <i>District 6: Jefferson Commissioner</i></p> <p>Josh Dison <i>IACA: Elmore Assessor</i></p> <p>Angie Barkell <i>IACRC: Owyhee Clerk</i></p>	<p>Tracie Lloyd <i>IACRC: Canyon Treasurer</i></p> <p>Vacant <i>IPAA:</i></p> <p>Andy Creech <i>ISA: Payette Sheriff</i></p> <p>Pam Garlock <i>ISACC: Boise Coroner</i></p>
---	---	--

***More attendees listed below**

IAC Staff

Seth Grigg

Sara Westbrook

Kelli Brassfield

Chase Christensen

More

Lorna Jorgensen