

IAC Legislative Committee

March 5th, 2025 | 10:00 am – 12:00 pm MST

700 W Washington St | Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | Vice Chair Tom Dayley

Owyhee Treasurer Annette Dygert motioned to approve the February 26th, 2025 minutes, seconded by Payette Sheriff Andy Creech. Motion passed.

Priorities

H0166 | Public Notices

- The Chair of State Affairs is not super keen on the bill, but Senator Toews is willing to sponsor it. There was not a definitive 'no' on it, so we aren't giving up yet. We are hoping to get a hearing on it soon.

H0267 | Boards of Commissioners

- Was referred to House Local Government, without any action since. Awaiting updates.

H0278 | Consolidated Elections

- Sen. Guthrie will hear it on Friday at 8am. He will be the bill sponsor in the Senate. There is not currently any anticipated pushback, and plenty of clerks across the state are contacting committee members asking for their support.

H0211 | 911 Grant Fee & IGA-10 | Tourism Tax

- The bill sponsor asked that it be pulled from the agenda this morning due to an issue needing to be fixed, so IAC will meet later with the sponsor to discuss the issues that have arisen.

S1118 | Procurement Thresholds & IGA-11 | Responsible Bidder

- The responsible bidder portion will not be moving forward, but S1118 procurement thresholds has support and is expected to move through the upcoming committee hearing.

IGA-13 | Public Defense Reform

- Meetings are still taking place regularly. It is actively being worked on and updates on the draft legislation will come next week.

Policies

H0314 | Youth Vape Prevention & H0244 | Electronic Smoking Devices

- These bills were supposed to have hearings today and tomorrow, but we received texts from Rep. Raymond, sponsor for H0244, that has let us know that they are both now on pause. A story in Montana has affected a representative in the House who has been sending it to other representatives and has put brakes on the bills.

Article for reference:

<https://montanafreepress.org/2025/03/03/house-lawmaker-resigns-after-bruising-battles-on-vape-bills/>

H0130 | Hospital Property Tax Exemption

- Awaiting updates.

H0206 | EMS & H0207 | EMS Trailer Bill

- H0206 and H0207 made it out of the Senate, and is hanging on the reading calendar. Another trailer bill has been introduced that would remove a requirement from the counties to submit a plan for the EMS coverage.

S1101 | Coroner Duties, Definitions, Standards

- Will be heard tomorrow in the House Local Government Committee with no anticipated problems.

Updates

H0180 | Broadband Infrastructure (OPPOSE)

- So far, the Chair of Senate State Affairs has not scheduled it for a hearing. Will get updates, and hopefully get the brakes put on this bill.

H0185 | Search and Rescue Fund (SUPPORT)

- This bill was pulled from the agenda after confusion about who is going to carry it. It was sent to the amending order for a small change, but hopefully shooting for next Wednesday to get a hearing in Senate Jud & Rules.

H0253 | Public Records, Requests, Residents (SUPPORT)

- So far, it is doing well and has passed the House on Monday with a vote of 41-29. Hoping it will get traction in the Senate.

H0266 | Idaho Building Code Act

- We are hoping to put the brakes on this bill as the attempted amendments to the language are not sufficient enough.

H0304 | Property Tax Relief

- Passed the House unanimously, yesterday afternoon.

H0329 | Rate-Regulated Utilities (SUPPORT)

- This bill will likely be brought up for a vote on the House floor. It would establish a kilo-watt hour tax to replace the property tax. Language was put in place to codify the 4-R act as an exemption for those eligible entities. There is a strong push to get this bill through at the moment. An analysis of the taxes collected in 2024 vs the amounts of revenues that would be produced from the kilowatt hour tax, and the kilowatt hour tax should net approx 100,000 more. The school district facility fund is on track to almost double from tax year 2024 to tax year 2025. As a result of those changes, there can likely be an expected drop in property taxes from rate regulated utilities to the extent of another \$1 million, hence the urgency to get this bill into place right now.

Madison Commissioner Brent Mendenhall motioned to support H0329, seconded by Ada Clerk Trent Tripple. Motion passed.

S1083 | Domestic Water (SUPPORT)

- Sitting on the Senate floor and has been held for a couple days now. This is likely because they wanted to deal with the property tax bill. It is third in line to be heard on the floor.

S1121 | Coroner Final Disposition (SUPPORT)

- Senator Harris' bill that deals with allowing staff of a funeral home to work as a deputy coroner. It will be heard in House Local Government tomorrow.

S1125 | Defense of State Law - Political Subdivisions (SUPPORT)

- Still awaiting a hearing. Has not been heard in over a week, so current impressions indicate this bill may not be moving forward.

S1135 | Coroner Confidentiality (SUPPORT) (remove from agenda)

- Due to concerns regarding access to records, this bill will likely not be moving forward. Will be removed from the agenda for now and likely worked on during the interim.

New Legislation

H0348 | Local Land Use Planning

- This bill would require a conditional use permit for energy facilities and that the energy in those facilities must be offered to an Idaho electric supplier at market rates before offering to a facility that does not provide energy to Idaho consumers. Has a sunset provision in 2030.

H0354 | Property Taxes, Homestead Exemption (SUPPORT)

- This is the burden of proof and proration bill that has been worked on heavily by IAC and the Assessors.

Owyhee Treasurer Annette Dygert motioned to support H0354, seconded by Clearwater Sheriff Chris Goetz. Motion passed.

H0355 | Deferral of Property Tax

- A repeat bill that came up in 2023. It is a program that people can apply for each year, where they can apply to have the State pay for their taxes with a lien put on their property. There are problems considering that it will pay late fees, delinquencies, interest, etc. Along with issues messing with the tax deed process. Will be heard in Rev & Tax tomorrow, but there has been willingness to add into the bill “in the current year” so that it cannot be tracked back for the last three years. Updates to come.

H0362 | Public Office, Vacancies

- This would create a vacancy for individuals filing for a statewide office, federal office, or legislative office with some exceptions. The intent of this is to help remove dual offices (unless the city has a population of <1000). It doesn't mention counties, but does talk about highway districts and school districts. It would only affect the previous position if the office was taken.

H0364 | DOGE Task Force

- Would create a legislative task force that would have multiple members from the House and Senate including members from JFAC on each side, that would look and assess different state agency structures, recommending streamlining operations, technology utilizations, etc. Would be dissolved November 30th, 2029.

S1124 | Wildfires, Electric Utilities (OPPOSE)

- This bill would allow immunity for our power and energy companies in regard to wildfires. Was sent to the amending order to add into liability language, because the current language includes that a company could only be liable if they were considered ‘negligent’ but the amendment is to remove that language. Several timber companies had testified and mentioned that they were working on the bill with utility companies, but there were issues with the current bill surrounding problematic language. ICRMP mentioned that if this language were to stand, it is likely they would remove Wildfire coverage.

Ada Clerk Trent Tripple motioned to oppose S1124, seconded by Madison Commissioner Brent Mendenhall. Motion passed.

S1143 | Building Permits, Applications

- Has to do with publishing of building permit requirements, timely reviews, and public hearings. Brought by Senator Galloway. The way that it is currently written, it's clear that Senator Galloway isn't versed on the process. Commissioner Dayley will arrange for Sen. Galloway to meet with P&Z in Ada County to help her find some ways that could actually be beneficial.

S1144 | Highways, Benefit, Motor Vehicles

- This bill seeks to repeal section 40-605 of the Idaho Code. It replaces it with a provision that 1) requirement that pedestrian and bicycle facilities may only be improved as a secondary or collateral benefit for a highway project; and 2) a requirement that non-residential collector and arterial roadways may not be reduced in width.

Potential New Legislation

- RS32605, was introduced this morning that has to do with notifying citizens about tax increases. There are issues with this draft that desire notices of tax increases, primarily due to the lack of information around levy rates at the time of requirement, as well as the time that it would take to make these notices. The committee agreed to print the RS. (monitor) only applies to taxing districts with a budget over \$1 million.
- H0366 - the public health district bill - would require the BOCC within the districts to appoint a commissioner to be on the board and if there are any additional seats to be filled on the board. You can appoint a physician or another elected official to fill the vacancies.
- H0367 - Legislation is intended to serve the rights of preborn children within Idaho, and require that the laws of Idaho and 'political subdivisions' be interpreted in light of the personhood of preborn children. Brought to the committee's attention because it mentions 'political subdivisions'.
- S1139 - POST bill - This bill would affect juvenile detention, probation, and misdemeanor probation, etc. Would help, for example, someone convicted of a crime not under 18, would have the ability to get certified in POST.

General Discussion

- H0040 passed the Senate and is up for the Governor's signature.
- S1133 - New Agricultural Protection Areas (replaces H0233).

Adjournment @ 11:15am.

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

ALTERNATES

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<p>Phil Lampert <i>District 1: Benewah Commissioner</i></p> <p>Brad Higgins <i>District 2: Idaho Commissioner</i></p> <p>Zach Brooks <i>District 3: Canyon Commissioner</i></p> <p>Dan Schaeffer <i>District 4: Minidoka Commissioner</i></p>	<p>Eric Jackson <i>District 5: Bingham Commissioner</i></p> <p>Shayne Young <i>District 6: Jefferson Commissioner</i></p> <p>Josh Dison <i>IACA: Elmore Assessor</i></p> <p>Kim Keeley <i>IACRC: Teton Clerk</i></p>	<p>Elizabeth Mahn <i>IACT: Ada Treasurer</i></p> <p>Vacant <i>IPAA:</i></p> <p>Matt Clifford <i>ISA: Ada 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
- Clay Boeckel

More

- Robert Berry
- Angie Barkell
- John David Davidson