

IAC Legislative Committee

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

700 W Washington St | Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | Chair Don Hall

Minidoka Commissioner Jared Orton motioned to approve the March 5th, 2025 minutes, seconded by Owyhee Treasurer Annette Dygert. Motion passed.

Priorities

H0166 | Public Notices & H0267 | Boards of Commissioners

- There is a separate bill seeking to allow for storage units to not have to publish in the newspapers anymore. That bill passed the Senate and is on its way through the House, so there is potential that with the movement of this new bill, along with removing the ‘private’ part from the language in our H0166 bill, it could provide some traction for the bill to get through the legislature. As far as H0267 goes, Rep. Earhardt met with Commissioner Zach Brooks to understand the bill further. She was willing to hear the bill, but that may not happen until later this week. At this point, H0267 is awaiting a hearing in the House.

H0278 | Consolidated Elections

- This bill is currently on a good path, sitting on the Senate third reading calendar at the moment. Hopefully will be heard sooner than later.

IGA-10 (H0388) | Tourism Tax

- H0388 was introduced, and has changed a bit. The main change is that it would apply to all counties. The other change would have the bill go to property tax relief all across the county, but before it was introduced, the bill was not run back by IAC so changes will need to be made.

IGA-13 | Public Defense Reform

- A meeting this afternoon will determine what the policy bill will look like. There is general consensus on most issues, but the big challenge is currently on facilities. There is a bit of a tug-of-war on whether or not there will be a phase out, county responsibility for utilities, etc. However, the rest of the bills components are good. The Speaker of the House believes that counties through 2029 should bear the responsibility of utilities all around. This is the current hang up, and further discussions will take place to see if consensus is reached. There was also an \$88 appropriation request (a \$36 million increase from prior year). There is little confidence that the appropriation will be the full \$88 million, but it could get as high as \$66 million. The policy will also strengthen the responsibilities of the Public Defender in judicial districts as well.

S1118 | Procurement Thresholds

- Made it through the House Commerce committee yesterday, and is on the second calendar reading in the House.

Policies

H0314 | Youth Vape Prevention & H0244 | Electronic Smoking Devices

- These bills were scheduled for hearings, then those initial dates changed, and since then, other groups have gotten ahold of these bills and are highly opposed to them and have encouraged people to reach out to legislators in opposition of the bill.

H0130 | Hospital Property Tax Exemption

- Senator Ricks has scheduled a hearing for this bill next Tuesday. Legislative Committee members are encouraged to reach out to the Senate Local Government committee to discuss this bill further and express support.

H0206 | EMS & H0207 | EMS Trailer Bill

- Both of these bills passed the Senate, and the second trailer bill (S1159) made it out of the Senate committee and is moving forward at the moment.

S1101 | Coroner Duties, Definitions, Standards

- This was heard in the House last week and has passed off the House floor, and is now heading to the governor for signature.

Updates

H0180 | Broadband Infrastructure (OPPOSE)

- This bill was supposed to have a hearing on Monday, but some brakes were able to be put on the bill. There has been back and forth about amendment language. IAC sent over a draft to some other stakeholders that would add an additional 30 days if the original shot clock deadline was missed. There is also language included that if a conditional use permit or variance is required that the shot clock would not apply.

H0185 | Search and Rescue Fund (SUPPORT)

- This bill is in the 14th amendment at the moment, and will hopefully be taken up soon. There was just a single change in language to alter the amount from \$4000 to \$8000. Updates to come.

H0253 | Public Records, Requests, Residents (SUPPORT)

- This bill will be on the agenda tomorrow in Senate State Affairs at the moment. From their point of view, the public records requests will be treated similar to hunting licenses (out of state residents will be charged more than Idaho residents).

H0266 | Idaho Building Code Act

- Currently in the 14th order. Our amended language would present 72 'business hours' rather than the original amendment of '48 hours'.

H0304 | Property Tax Relief

- This bill was heard in the Senate Local Gov & Tax and sailed through committee.

H0329 | Rate-Regulated Utilities (SUPPORT)

- This has passed the House and is up for consideration in Senate Local Gov & Tax today.

H0354 | Property Taxes, Homestead Exemption (SUPPORT)

- Passed the House. There are some changes that certain representatives are attempting to make to the bill after it has passed, and IAC is keeping tabs on those discussions.

S1083 | Domestic Water (SUPPORT)

- Advanced out of the House Resources & Conservation committee. The only negative testimony was from a water user that argued the bill didn't go far enough. Otherwise, it is heading to the floor and had a unanimous vote out of committee.

S1121 | Coroner Final Disposition (SUPPORT)

- This bill was heard last week with the other coroner bill. It passed unanimously and is headed for the Governor's desk.

S1124 | Wildfires, Electric Utilities (OPPOSE)

- This bill was originally sent to the 14th order for amendments due to concerns and whatnot expressed about its current state. The stakeholders wanting to provide amendment language were not allowed to provide input. This bill then lost 19-16, but some Senators asked for the bill to be reconsidered. Typically when there is a vote for reconsideration, it is to reconsider the vote that was cast. What is being attempted today is to get the bill back into the 13th for reconsideration, and then the bill's sponsors are going to ask for it to be sent to the 14th order for amendments. We have requested two amendments, one being as part of the planning process, the PUC would be required to consult with local counties on it, which was an easy amendment to get in. The harder amendment has to do with liability. The liability bar in the current bill is pretty high. Surrounding states have adopted more of a 'negligence standard' type of stance rather than what this bill seeks to achieve using the language 'reckless'. Most of the fighting and concern is determining this threshold of 'reckless' or 'negligent'. If a reckless standard is codified, someone would have to prove that the utility company made a conscious decision to not implement their mitigation plan. The language we propose would attempt to soften that standard. There is a risk that ICRMP could drop wildfire coverage if this bill passes in its current state. Michael Kane from ICRMP discussed that, unlike commercial insurance carriers, ICRMP does not have the ability to leave Idaho. Other commercial carriers have that option. ICRMP sees two potential options if this bill passes: rates will either increase substantially or they will not be able to insure wildfire at all.

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

- It would seem that this bill doesn't have very much traction and has not had a hearing scheduled yet. Updates to come if anything changes.

New Legislation

HJR005 | Sales & Use Tax, Constitution

- Introduced by Rep. Raybould. This bill is something that the Speaker ran in 2008 and it ran into opposition in the Senate, and is why the Speaker has not liked local option taxes ever since. The bill proposes a constitutional amendment that creates the option for counties and municipalities to levy a local sales and use tax. Any proposed levy would have to include a detailed description of the products or services subject to the tax, the intended purpose, and a termination date of no longer than 4 years. The maximum levy rate is 2%. Updates to come if necessary.

H0366 | Public Health District Boards

- Was heard and failed in committee. Commissioners expressed broad interest in having a work session surrounding the context of the bill to discuss the changing culture around Public Health Districts and what is best as far as who sits on these district boards, the structure, and general understanding. Some members also expressed the importance of the education of our legislators on particular local issues, but are unsure of the best way to achieve this. Commissioners & Sheriffs expressed experiencing more frequently, situations in which bills are introduced in the legislature that affect them, without ever being consulted on it from the legislature.

H0369 | Taxing Districts, Tax Increases

- The bill as drafted is not moving forward. This session another bill is going to be brought and likely believes it would apply to just counties and cities. IAC has relayed that if a third notice is required of the county to be sent out, the notices need to be relevant and takes into consideration the new data in order to prevent misinformation and redundancy when that information reaches the taxpayer. This would not be currently possible as the bill is currently drafted. The hope is to work on this during the interim to further convey the negative effects this would have on counties, but at the moment, expect there to be another bill introduced.

H0375 | Local Sales & Use Tax

- Reference discussion from HJR005.

H0376 | Concealed Weapons, Public Property

- Heard this morning in the House State Affairs committee and passed out along party lines. If this bill passes, it would remove the bill worked on last year that provides the county the ability to restrict concealed weapons on public property if necessary. It would repeal the entire section that the committee discussed last year.

S1139 | POST Applicants, Criminal History (SUPPORT)

- This bill passed unanimously out of the Senate and is now in the House Jud and Rules committee. This bill would apply to all POST positions. This bill would allow the POST Council to certify certain individuals with past felonious convictions to become POST applicants, except in the case of egregious circumstances or offenses.

Gem Assessor Hollie Ann Strang motioned to support S1139, seconded by Minidoka Commissioner Jared Orton. Motion passed.

S1141 | Public Camping Ban, Statewide

- After this bill got put onto the agenda, Senator Galloway received a lot of feedback. This bill will continue to be monitored, as IAC has requested amendments to the bill which have not yet been posted.

S1159 | Emergency Medical Services

- This is the additional trailer bill to H0206, that removes the requirement of a county-endorsed application.

S1162 | Short-Term Rentals & Vacation Rentals

- Seeks to allow local governments to regulate short-term rentals only in cases where it is in the interest of public health and safety, and in addition, call for safety disclosures by property owners and allows for local jurisdictions to license short-term rentals (per the bill's statement of purpose). This bill has been referred to the Senate Local Gov & Taxation committee.

S1163 | Tourism Revenue & Short-Term Regulation

- This bill seeks limits on the regulation by local governments on short term rentals in Idaho in an attempt to "increase lodging availability for tourists to Idaho and increased revenue for Idaho's tourist industry". It has been referred to the Senate Local Gov & Taxation committee.

S1164 | Building Permits, Processing

- This bill was brought by Senator Galloway. It has just been introduced, but has to do with local governments making available building permit requirements and render building permit submissions complete or incomplete within 10 business days.

Potential New Legislation

- *Minidoka Commissioner Jared Orton motioned to oppose S1133, seconded by Madison Commissioner Brent Mendenhall. Motion passed.*

General Discussion

- H0101 | Public Rights of Way - This bill was stopped in the House Transportation committee.
- H0106 | County Fair Boards - Thanks to a handful of actors, this bill was stopped in the Senate Local Gov & Tax committee.

Adjournment @ 12:00 pm.

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>LACT: 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: Benewah Commissioner</i>	Eric Jackson <i>District 5: Bingham Commissioner</i>	Elizabeth Mahn <i>LACT: 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>
Dan Schaeffer <i>District 4: Minidoka Commissioner</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

Logan - Ada County

Chris Corwin - Blaine County Emergency Management

Michael Kane - ICRMP