

The image shows the Idaho State Capitol building, a grand neoclassical structure with a prominent dome topped by a golden orb. The building features a portico with several tall columns. In the foreground, a large, leafy green tree partially obscures the left side of the building. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The text 'Legislative Review 2025' is overlaid in the top right corner in a large, white, sans-serif font.

# Legislative Review 2025

The logo for the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) features a stylized outline of the state of Idaho in blue, with the letters 'IAC' in a bold, white, sans-serif font overlaid on it.

IDAHO  
ASSOCIATION OF  
COUNTIES



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## INTRODUCTION

The 2025 Idaho Legislative Session began on January 6 with a slow start—only a handful of bills were introduced in the first few weeks. But the pace quickly picked up, and legislation began moving rapidly. By the time the Legislature adjourned on April 4, a record number of bills had been introduced. According to the Legislative Services Office’s *2025 Key Actions Summary*, “Approximately 2,969 pieces of draft legislation were written.” However, fewer than half of those drafts became official RSs—the format required for a bill to be considered by a legislative committee. Of the bills that were introduced, only 48 percent ultimately became law, falling below the five-year average passage rate of 52 percent.

| Category                 | 2025 Legislative Session | Past 5-Year Average |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| New Legislation Prepared | 1,036                    | 864                 |
| Bills Introduced         | 708                      | 590                 |
| Bills Passed             | 341                      | 307                 |

IAC tracked 118 bills during the legislative session—approximately one of every seven introduced. In this issue of the IAC Legislative Review, we included 60 bills that actually passed. Each summary includes how the bill impacts counties, what statutes have been amended, whether or not the bill was an IAC Priority/Policy, and whether the IAC Legislative Committee took a position on a bill. The effective date and a link to the bill are also included.

The bills are broken down into categories based on IAC's Steering Committees to make it easier for members to navigate the review. On a few occasions, bill topics meant that the bills fit in more than one steering committee subject. In those instances, the bills are listed under each committee. If you have questions about any of these bills or would simply like to receive an in-depth overview of major legislation impacting counties, be sure to join the IAC Policy Team at the [IAC Spring County Officials Institute](#) at one of four locations:

Idaho Falls: Tuesday, April 29, 2025

Twin Falls: Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Coeur d'Alene: Friday, May 9, 2025

Nampa: Tuesday, May 13, 2025

In a session defined by its complexity and volume, we want to express sincere appreciation to the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) Legislative Committee and the IAC membership for their thoughtful engagement. The Legislative Committee, in particular, invested countless hours reviewing bills, assessing their impact on counties, and guiding our advocacy strategy. With the extended timeline and the overwhelming number of bills, this year posed significant challenges. We could not have navigated it successfully without the steady leadership of the Legislative Committee, along with the expertise, collaboration, and commitment of the IAC membership.

## INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND USE, & TRANSPORTATION

Transportation funding was a key issue during the 2025 legislative session. While the Governor proposed a 3% increase over last year’s budget to account for inflation, the Legislature instead reduced transportation funding by \$25 million. In response, IAC collaborated closely with local partners—most notably the Idaho Highway District Association—to help prevent even deeper cuts and protect critical infrastructure investments.

In addition to transportation, the legislature also focused on streamlining permitting processes. Several bills were introduced to accelerate approvals, including House Bill 180, which targeted broadband permitting, and House Bill 266, which allows for virtual re-inspections. These efforts reflect a broader legislative trend toward reducing regulatory barriers to speed up development.

| Bill | Title & Summary   | Effective Date           | Latest Version            | Subject  |
|------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| H 22 | <p><b><i>TRANSPORTATION – Amends existing law to provide for data security compliance training for systems used by the Division of Motor Vehicles.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 49-202 of Idaho Code, which outlines the duties of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The legislation enhances data security measures within the department by making it clear that all department employees, agents, and contractors who have access to source systems used by the Division of Motor Vehicles must complete data security compliance training, including an FBI criminal background check.</p> <p>ITD will administer access to and provide the training required to ensure enhanced data security measures to protect access to sensitive information. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 49-202</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation</b> |
| H 25 | <p><b><i>SALES TAX – Amends existing law to provide for the distribution of certain sales tax revenues to the transportation expansion and congestion mitigation fund and to local units of government for highway projects.</i></b></p>  | Effective:<br>04/1/2025  | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation</b> |

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|       | <p>The bill amends Section 63-3638 of Idaho Code regarding the Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation Fund. It sets a minimum allocation of \$80 million and a maximum of \$140 million for the state, aimed at enhancing transportation infrastructure and addressing congestion issues.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill revises Section 40-720 to improve the financial resources available for local highway projects by allowing local units of government to pool funds allocated to them for local highway projects. It removes the \$80 million cap on local project funding and instead requires \$45 million to be appropriated and apportioned to locals each year. The funds for local units can be used for road and bridge maintenance, travel lane expansion, and congestion mitigation, emphasizing project selection based on their potential to improve traffic flow. An emergency clause is included, allowing for immediate implementation upon passage. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 63-3638, 40-720</p> |                          |                           |  |
| H 86  | <p><b><i>BUILDING CODE – Adds to existing law to prohibit laws that require electric vehicle charging stations or parking spaces in any building plan and to provide for preemption of local laws and ordinances.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends the Idaho Building Code Act by adding a new section, 39-4109B, which prohibits both the state of Idaho and local governments from requiring the inclusion of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in building plans. This includes requirements for EV charging stations, designated EV parking spaces, and upgraded electrical conduits. The legislation aims to prevent any local laws or regulations that mandate such infrastructure in building plans, thereby establishing a uniform standard across the state.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill declares an emergency, allowing it to take effect immediately upon passage and approval. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 39-4109B</p>   | Effective:<br>03/11/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <p>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation<br/>Intergovernmental<br/>Affairs<br/>Position: Support</p> |
| H 104 | <p><b><i>BUILDING CODE ACT – Amends existing law to provide a definition for agricultural buildings and that counties shall not alter the provisions of the section.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 39-4116 of Idaho Code by introducing a new definition for "agricultural buildings," which includes various structures used in agricultural operations, while explicitly excluding places of human habitation, employment, or utilized by the public. It also prohibits counties from imposing additional restrictions on agricultural buildings, such as size limitations, requiring maximum travel distances to exits of agricultural buildings, or requirements for automatic sprinkler systems. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 39-4116</p>  | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <p>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation<br/>Revenue &amp; Taxation<br/>Position: Oppose</p>         |

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| <p>H 171</p> | <p><b><i>INTERMODAL COMMERCE AUTHORITY – Amends and adds to existing law to revise provisions regarding county-based or city-based intermodal commerce authority and to establish provisions regarding publication of proceedings and a contest period.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends various sections of Idaho Code related to county-based or city-based intermodal commerce authorities. It authorizes these authorities to acquire, construct, maintain, and operate various facilities, including utility services facilities, to support modern land-based ports. Additionally, it revises the general powers of these authorities, allowing them to include utility services, including water and sewer facilities, but not including facilities to transmit, distribute, or produce electrical energy or broadband services.</p> <p>Furthermore, the bill introduces a new section, 70-2214, which outlines the procedures for the publication of proceedings related to the authorization of revenue bonds. It mandates that resolutions authorizing such bonds be published in a local newspaper and establishes a 30-day contest period during which interested parties can challenge the legality of the proceedings. After this period, the validity of the bonds and related resolutions is presumed legal, and no further legal challenges can be made. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 70-2201, 70-2206</p>                       | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/25</p> | <p><a href="#">Engrossment 1</a></p> | <p>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation</p> |
| <p>H 180</p> | <p><b><i>BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE – Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to provide for the timing of the permitting process relating to broadband infrastructure.</i></b></p> <p>This bill aims to enhance local land use planning in Idaho by facilitating the siting of telecommunications facilities and broadband infrastructure. It introduces a new section, 67-6540, to Chapter 65, Title 67 of Idaho Code, which mandates that cities, counties, or highway districts must approve or deny siting applications for telecommunications or broadband infrastructure within a specified reasonable timeframe. If an application is not addressed within this timeframe, it may be (1) automatically approved (if no special use permit or variance is required) or (2) added to the next public hearing under certain conditions. The bill also outlines the process for handling incomplete applications and establishes specific timelines for different types of broadband and telecommunications permits.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill repeals the existing Section 61-538 and replaces it with a new section that regulates pole attachments, defining terms related to broadband and cable services. It establishes a framework for resolving disputes between public utilities and telecommunications providers regarding pole attachment rates and conditions, ensuring that public utilities can recover their costs</p> | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/25</p> | <p><a href="#">Engrossment 1</a></p> | <p>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation</p> |

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|       | while considering the interests of all parties involved. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 61-538 Engrossment 1: 61-538   |                          |                               |   |
| H 266 | <p><b><i>IDAHO BUILDING CODE ACT – Adds to existing law to provide for certain live virtual re-inspections and to provide for timely inspections and the option for third-party inspections in certain situations.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends the Idaho Building Code Act by introducing two new sections, 39-4117 and 39-4118, to enhance inspection processes. Section 39-4117 allows for live virtual re-inspections by the division and local governments, provided that these inspections do not involve buildings that are three stories or taller. The section defines "live virtual inspection" and "live virtual re-inspection," emphasizing the use of real-time visual aids to conduct inspections without the inspector being physically present.</p> <p>Section 39-4118 establishes timeliness requirements for inspections requested by permit holders. If an inspection is not performed within 48 business hours, the permit holder can hire a third-party inspector and will be entitled to a refund of any fees paid for the inspection. Additionally, if an inspector fails to provide a reason for a failed inspection within three days, the permit holder is eligible for a 10% refund of the inspection fees. The bill also stipulates that third-party inspectors must meet specific qualifications and adhere to jurisdictional standards. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 39-4117, 39-4118</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/25   | <a href="#">Engrossment 2</a> | Infrastructure,<br>Land Use &<br>Transportation |
| H 299 | <p><b><i>IDAHO BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD – Amends existing law to revise the composition of the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board and to provide that any grant award process shall be conducted by an independent third party.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 67-4761 of Idaho Code to revise the composition of the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board. The board will now include two nonvoting members with experience and knowledge of the broadband industry, one appointed by the speaker of the House and the other by the president pro tempore of the Senate. Additionally, the bill stipulates that grant award grading and scoring may be conducted by an independent third party at the discretion of the advisory board, which will also receive recommendations from this third party.</p> <p>The advisory board is tasked with creating a statewide broadband plan to prioritize and distribute grants from the Idaho broadband fund to areas in need. The plan must be adopted by a majority vote and will be made publicly available. The board is also responsible for administering the</p>  | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a>     | Infrastructure,<br>Land Use &<br>Transportation |



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|              | implementation of the plan and can revise it upon petition from any state agency, with a review process established for such petitions. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 67-4761   |  |                           |   |
| <b>HCR 8</b> | <p><b><i>LAVA RIDGE – States findings of the Legislature, expresses concern and opposition towards the Lava Ridge wind energy project, and requests that the State of Idaho monitor the project and assist in applicable reviews.</i></b></p> <p>House Concurrent Resolution No. 8 expresses the Idaho Legislature's opposition to the Bureau of Land Management's approval of the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project, which involves leasing public land in Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties for the construction of at least 231 wind turbines. The resolution highlights widespread local opposition, citing concerns over the project's impact on cultural and historical sites, wildlife, local economies, and the fragile geology of the Snake River Aquifer. It also notes that the energy produced would primarily benefit Southern Nevada and California, rather than Idaho, and emphasizes the potential strain on local housing and workforce resources during the construction period.</p> <p>The resolution calls for state agencies to cooperate with local governments in reviewing the project and requests that Idaho's Attorney General and Governor work to prevent the project's advancement. It aligns with President Trump's executive order, which seeks a comprehensive review of federal wind energy project approvals. Ultimately, the Legislature supports a no-build option for the Lava Ridge project, reflecting the concerns of Idaho residents and the potential negative impacts on the Magic Valley region.</p> | House, Mar 27, 2025: Delivered to Secretary of State at 10:57 a.m. on March 27, 2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation<br/>Public Lands &amp;<br/>Natural Resources</b> |
| <b>HJM 5</b> | <p><b><i>LAVA RIDGE – States findings of the Legislature, expresses concern and opposition towards the Lava Ridge wind energy project, and requests additional federal intervention.</i></b></p> <p>House Joint Memorial No. 5 expresses the opposition of the Idaho Legislature to the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project, which has been approved by the Bureau of Land Management. The memorial highlights concerns raised by various state officials, including Governor Brad Little and Attorney General Raul Labrador, regarding the project's potential negative impacts on local communities, wildlife, and the environment. It emphasizes that the project would not benefit Idaho, as the energy produced would primarily serve Southern Nevada and California, and it raises issues related to housing shortages, economic instability, and damage to the Snake River Aquifer.</p> <p>The memorial calls for federal intervention to permanently prohibit the Lava Ridge project, aligning with President Trump's executive order that mandates a review of federal leasing and permitting</p>   | House, Mar 27, 2025: Delivered to Secretary of State at 10:57 a.m. on March 27, 2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation<br/>Public Lands &amp;<br/>Natural Resources</b> |

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|        | practices for wind energy projects. The resolution requests that the Secretary of the Interior consider a temporary moratorium on the project and conduct a comprehensive analysis of its impacts.   |  |                               |  |
| S 1083 | <p><b><i>DOMESTIC WATER USE – Amends existing law related to domestic use of water and to provide for delivery, planning, and enforcement.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends several sections of Idaho Code concerning domestic water uses and the management of water resources. It further defines “domestic purposes” to encompass specific uses such as homes and livestock. It excludes certain multi-unit developments and commercial establishments unless they adhere to defined diversion and rate, and volume limitations. It defines what is considered “in-home use.” It clarifies that in areas where a moratorium order on the development of new water rights has been issued or a designated a critical groundwater area or groundwater management area, then a permit application will be required.</p> <p>It creates a new section that explains the enforcement process for domestic purpose and domestic use limitations. Additionally, it creates a new section 31-3805, which explains how counties and cities can consider water availability when determining zoning. When a local body is considering a change, repeal, or adoption of the comprehensive plan, they are required to consider the effect the plan would have on the source, quantity, and quality of groundwater in the area.</p> <p><b>Statutes Affected:</b> 42-111, 42-227, 42-351, 42-1805, 31-3805, 31-3806, 50-1334, 67-6508, 67-6537</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/2025                         | <a href="#">Engrossment 1</a> | <p><b>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation</b></p> <p><b>Position: Support</b></p>                            |
| S 1118 | <p><b><i>PROCUREMENT BY POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS – Amends existing law to revise certain monetary thresholds for certain types of procurement by political subdivisions.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Idaho Code concerning procurement by political subdivisions, specifically focusing on public works construction and the procurement of services and personal property. It raises the threshold for procurement exclusions, increasing the limit for public works construction from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and for services or personal property from \$75,000 to \$100,000. The bill also revises the procedures for public works projects valued between \$100,000 and \$250,000, mandating that bids be solicited from at least three licensed contractors and detailing the bid submission and evaluation process.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill changes when a competitive bidding process for public works projects and procurement of services and personal property is required, changing from exceeding \$200,000 to \$250,000. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 67-2803, 67-2805, 67-2806</p>   | House, Mar 20,<br>2025: Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a>     | <p><b>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation</b></p> <p><b>Position: Support</b></p> <p><b>IAC Priority</b></p> |

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| <p><b>S 1133</b></p> | <p><b><i>AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION AREAS – Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to revise the Agricultural Protection Area Act.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends the Agricultural Protection Area Act (APA) in Idaho, specifically revising Section 67-9704, which requires each board of county commissioners to establish an agricultural protection area ordinance. The application fee may not exceed the costs of covering the administrative expenses to process the applications, though an additional fee may be required if an appeal is filed. The same restrictions would apply.</p> <p>Additionally, it introduces a new provision that allows for the designation of agricultural protection areas on planning maps without requiring a rezone or comprehensive plan amendment. The bill also repeals Section 67-9706. It replaces it with a new section that outlines the review and action process for agricultural protection area applications, including timelines for decisions and appeals, and allowing judicial review.</p> <p>Further amendments include revisions to Section 67-9709, which governs allowable fees for petitions for the addition and removal of land from agricultural protection areas, and Section 67-9710, which sets limitations on local regulations affecting these areas. Notably, the bill clarifies that non-agricultural land uses within agricultural protection areas are prohibited unless they contribute to agricultural production. (Also see Senate Bill 1187, a trailer to this bill.) <b>Statutes affected:</b> 67-9703, 67-9704, 67-9706, 67-9709, 67-9710 Engrossment 1: 67-9704, 67-9706, 67-9709, 67-9710</p> | <p>Effective:<br/>03/31/2025</p> | <p><a href="#">Engrossment 1</a></p> | <p><b>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation</b><br/><b>Position: Oppose</b></p> |
| <p><b>S 1140</b></p> | <p><b><i>TRANSPORTATION – Amends existing law to define a term and to revise provisions regarding violations and enforcement.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends several sections of Idaho Code related to highways and bridges, specifically Sections 40-103, 40-117, and 40-207. In Section 40-103, it introduces a definition “benefit primarily motor vehicles,” and “primary benefit of motor vehicles” to mean designing highway and bridge maintenance and construction projects to reduce traffic congestion, travel delays, engine idle time, and unproductive consumption.</p> <p>Section 40-117 adds additional information to the definitions of “Primary benefit of motor vehicles” and “benefit primarily motor vehicles” to mean designing highway and bridge maintenance construction projects to reduce traffic congestion, travel delays, engine idle time, and unproductive fuel consumption. It also includes and is limited to improving vehicle traffic flow and travel times</p>   | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/25</p>   | <p><a href="#">Engrossment 1</a></p> | <p><b>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation</b></p>                             |



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|        | <p>through expanding vehicle travel lanes, improving intersection efficiency, adding turning lanes, improving transportation management systems, or a combination of such methods.</p> <p>It allows improvements to existing or new bike and pedestrian programs only if they are included in a project for the primary benefit of motor vehicles, if the facilities provide a collateral or secondary benefit to the project, or are highway design improvements required to comply with existing federal law.</p> <p>It also revises the penalties for violations of these statutes, increasing the maximum fine from \$500 to \$1,000 and providing protections for individuals reporting such violations.</p> <p><b>Statutes affected:</b> 40-103, 40-117, 40-207</p>   |                          |                           |   |
| S 1144 | <p><b><i>TRANSPORTATION – Repeals and adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding laying out of highways.</i></b></p> <p>This bill repeals Section 40-605 of Idaho Code, which previously addressed the laying out of new highways, the widening, changing, or straightening of existing highways, and the purchase of rights-of-way by agreement. In its place, a new Section 40-605 is introduced, establishing provisions that prioritize the improvement of highways for the benefit of motorists. The new section outlines the authority of county commissioners to enhance existing highways or create new ones to alleviate traffic congestion and reduce travel time, while also stipulating that the right-of-way for any highway must be at least fifty feet wide, with exceptions only as required by law.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill specifies that improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities should be secondary to highway projects, except when necessary for safety near schools and parks. It also restricts the widening, straightening, or relocation of non-residential collector or arterial highways, allowing such actions only as mandated by federal law. If private property must be acquired for highway projects, the commissioners are required to conduct a survey and attempt to negotiate with property owners for the purchase of the necessary land. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 40-605</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/25   | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | Infrastructure,<br>Land Use &<br>Transportation |
| S 1187 | <p><b><i>AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION AREAS – Amends Senate Bill 1133 to revise the Agricultural Protection Area Act.</i></b></p> <p>This bill is a trailer bill to Senate Bill 1133. It amends Sections 67-9706 and 67-9709 of Idaho Code, focusing on the processes related to agricultural protection areas. In Section 67-9706, the bill specifies that the county has the flexibility to have either the board of county commissioners, or planning and</p>   | Effective:<br>04/04/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | Infrastructure,<br>Land Use &<br>Transportation |

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|        | <p>zoning administrator, or another administrative officer as determined by the county approve or deny applications to include land in an agricultural protection area within sixty days of receiving a recommendation from the agricultural protection area commission. If no decision is made by the BOCC or their designee within that timeframe, the APA Commission's recommendation automatically becomes the decision.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill allows aggrieved applicants to appeal decisions made by an appointed administrator to the board of county commissioners. The board must hold a public hearing and issue a final decision within sixty days.</p> <p>An emergency clause is included, making the act effective immediately upon passage and approval.<br/> <b>Statutes affected:</b> 67-906, 67-9709</p> |                        |                           |   |
| S 1218 | <p><b><i>IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT – FUNDING – Relates to the funding of the Idaho Transportation Department for fiscal years 2025 and 2026.</i></b></p> <p>This bill appropriates additional funding to the Idaho Transportation Department for fiscal year 2026 while also reducing certain appropriations for personnel costs. The main impact on counties is the appropriation of \$110,000 million from the general fund to the Local Highway Distribution Fund, which should be distributed to the counties as soon as practical after July 1, 2025.</p>  | Effective:<br>07/01/25 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <p><b>Infrastructure,<br/>Land Use &amp;<br/>Transportation</b></p> <p><b>Position: Support</b></p> |

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Continuing the trend of the past five years, numerous elections bills were introduced again this year, including the passage of an IAC priority (H278), which will align all of the dates and deadlines of elections for primary and general elections in odd and even numbered years. Pre-emption is another continuing pattern, though this year it took on a slightly different flavor since more than one bill had pre-emption clauses not just on local

governments but on the state as well (See H32 and H86 for two examples).

New changes to the Public Records Act (H253) should simplify the ability to respond to non-resident requests for public records by further extending the timeline and allowing locals to charge the actual costs of providing the service.

| Bill | Title & Summary   | Effective Date           | Latest Version            | Subject                                   |
|------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| H 14 | <p><b><i>IDAHO CODE CLEANUP – Adds to existing law to establish Idaho Code Cleanup Act.</i></b></p> <p>The proposed legislation, known as the "Idaho Code Cleanup Act," aims to streamline and update Idaho Code by establishing a new Chapter 37 within Title 67. This chapter includes a declaration of necessity emphasizing the importance of maintaining laws that serve the public health, safety, and welfare while eliminating unnecessary bureaucratic provisions. It defines key terms such as "obsolete," "outdated," and "unnecessary," and mandates that state agencies conduct a thorough review of their enabling statutes and associated code sections.</p> <p>By September 1, 2025, all state agencies are required to report to the legislature on any code chapters, sections, or subsections they identify as obsolete, outdated, or unnecessary, along with justifications for their recommendations. The report will be submitted through a designated online portal, and agencies may also include information on additional provisions outside their purview that they believe should be reviewed. The act declares an emergency, allowing it to take effect immediately upon passage and approval.</p> | Effective:<br>02/07/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <a href="#">Intergovernmental Affairs</a> |



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| <p><b>H 32</b></p> | <p><b><i>MASK MANDATES – Adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding the prohibition of mask mandates.</i></b></p> <p>The proposed bill amends Chapter 23, Title 67 of Idaho Code by adding a new section, 67-2362, which explicitly prohibits mask mandates by the state or any political subdivisions. Under this new provision, neither the state nor any official can require individuals to wear medical face masks, face shields, or other face coverings to prevent the spread of contagious or infectious diseases.</p> <p>Additionally, any recommendations for mask usage must clearly state that they are not mandatory. The bill also defines key terms such as "official," "political subdivision," and "state," while outlining exemptions for specific vocational settings where mask use is essential for job safety, such as healthcare, hazardous material or biohazard environments, and industrial environments where respiratory protection is required.</p> <p>Furthermore, the bill clarifies that the prohibition does not apply to the use of face masks to address behavioral risks in facilities where individuals are confined, such as mental health hospitals and correctional facilities. The legislation is declared to be an emergency measure, taking effect immediately upon passage and approval.</p> | <p>Effective:<br/>03/04/2025</p> | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p> | <p><a href="#">Intergovernmental Affairs</a></p> |
| <p><b>H 55</b></p> | <p><b><i>PERSI – Amends existing law to provide that service as a bona fide volunteer shall not be considered employment or reemployment and to define a term.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 59-1356 of Idaho Code to allow retired members of the public employee retirement system to serve as bona fide volunteers without being considered reemployed. The new legal language specifies that a retired member can provide services as a bona fide volunteer for an employer defined in section 59-1302, Idaho Code, after retirement. It also establishes criteria for what constitutes a bona fide volunteer, emphasizing that such individuals must perform services without any expectation of compensation and not engage in work typically compensated by an employer. If a retired member does not meet these criteria, their retirement benefits will be negated, and they will be treated as having continued employment.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill includes provisions that outline the responsibilities of employers in reporting the employment of retired members to ensure proper suspension of benefits. The amendments aim to clarify the status of retired members who wish to volunteer while protecting the integrity of the retirement system. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 59-1356</p>                            | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/2025</p> | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p> | <p><a href="#">Intergovernmental Affairs</a></p> |

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| <p><b>H 86</b></p>  | <p><b><i>BUILDING CODE – Adds to existing law to prohibit laws that require electric vehicle charging stations or parking spaces in any building plan and to provide for preemption of local laws and ordinances.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends the Idaho Building Code Act by adding a new section, 39-4109B, which prohibits both the state of Idaho and local governments from requiring the inclusion of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in building plans. This includes requirements for EV charging stations, designated EV parking spaces, and upgraded electrical conduits. The legislation aims to prevent any local or state laws or regulations that mandate such infrastructure in building plans, thereby establishing a uniform standard across the state.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill declares an emergency, allowing it to take effect immediately upon passage and approval. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 39-4109B</p>  | <p>Effective:<br/>03/11/2025</p> | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p>     | <p><b>Infrastructure, Land Use &amp; Transportation</b><br/><b>Intergovernmental Affairs</b><br/><b>Position: Support</b></p> |
| <p><b>H 102</b></p> | <p><b><i>RECREATION DISTRICTS – Amends existing law to establish additional procedures to file petitions for the dissolution of recreation districts.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 31-4320 of Idaho Code, which outlines the procedure for the dissolution of recreation districts. Key changes include the requirement for a petition for dissolution to be signed by at least 20% of qualified electors residing within the district, which is clarified from the previous language.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill allows for a majority of the board of directors of the recreation district to file a petition without needing signatures from the electors. The timeline for the county commissioners to determine compliance with the petition requirements is also updated, changing "forthwith" to "timely." Furthermore, the bill specifies that if an election is ordered, it must be conducted according to existing provisions, and the results will determine whether the district is dissolved. The bill also addresses the handling of property and funds after dissolution, ensuring that any remaining assets are managed according to legal requirements. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 31-4320</p> | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/25</p>   | <p><a href="#">Engrossment 1</a></p> | <p><b>Intergovernmental Affairs</b></p>   |
| <p><b>H 172</b></p> | <p><b><i>OPEN MEETINGS LAW – Amends existing law to establish provisions regarding multiple agenda items on an agenda.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 74-204 of Idaho Code, which pertains to the Open Meetings Law, by introducing new provisions regarding the handling of multiple agenda items during meetings. Specifically, it allows for multiple agenda items to be grouped together and voted on as a single action</p>   | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/2025</p> | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p>     | <p><b>Intergovernmental Affairs</b></p>   |

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|       | <p>item, referred to as a consent agenda. However, this grouping is restricted to items that are not ordinances, fee resolutions, or those requiring more than a simple majority vote. If any member of the governing body requests the removal of an item from the consent agenda, it must be taken out for separate discussion and voting before the consent agenda vote occurs.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill outlines the procedures for amending agendas both before and during meetings, specifying the time frames for when amendments can be made and how they should be posted. It emphasizes that final action cannot be taken on items added after the start of a meeting unless an emergency is declared, with the justification for such action documented in the meeting minutes.</p> <p><b>Statutes affected:</b> 74-204</p>   |                          |                               |  |
| H 208 | <p><b><i>FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the consolidation of fire protection districts.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends several sections of Idaho Code related to fire protection districts. It modifies Section 31-1413 to streamline the consolidation process of fire protection districts by removing specific code references and accompanying requirements. Notably, it clarifies that any fire protection district may consolidate with one or more existing districts, and it outlines the necessary procedures for such consolidation.</p> <p>The bill also amends Section 31-1423 to eliminate provisions regarding fire protection district budgets following consolidation, simplifying the budgetary process for newly formed districts.</p> <p>Furthermore, it revises Section 63-215 to update the requirements for recording and filing legal descriptions and maps of district boundaries, ensuring that these documents are submitted to taxing districts with taxing authority that will be affected by the changes in a timely manner. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 31-1413, 31-1423, 63-215</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a>     | Intergovernmental<br>Affairs                             |
| H 253 | <p><b><i>PUBLIC RECORDS – Amends existing law to provide additional time to respond to requests for public records from nonresidents and to allow a different fee schedule to fulfill nonresident requests.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Idaho Code to enhance the framework surrounding public records requests. It introduces a new definition for "Resident" that specifies individuals who have lived in Idaho for at least thirty days, while excluding full-time students from other states. It clarifies the rights of residents</p>   | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Engrossment 1</a> | Intergovernmental<br>Affairs<br><b>Position: Support</b> |



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|                     | <p>to examine and copy public records, stipulating that requests must be specific and shall require a written declaration attesting under oath that the requester is a resident.</p> <p>Residents are still entitled to the first two hours of labor and the first one hundred pages of copies free of charge, while non-residents may face fees determined by the public agency or public official, as long as the fees do not exceed the actual costs of providing the service.</p> <p>If a public official chooses to charge additional fees to non-residents, those fees must be uniform for all non-residents for certain requests outlined in Idaho Code. The bill also mandates public agencies to provide itemized statements of fees and prohibits them from outsourcing their duties to non-governmental entities.</p> <p>Further provisions in the bill require that requests for public records be directed to a designated custodian and clearly labeled as such. Public agencies are obligated to respond to requests from residents within three working days and from non-residents within twenty-one days, with allowances for extensions to 10 days for residents and 35 days for non-residents if necessary. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 74-101, 74-102, 74-103, 67-4126</p>   |                                  |                                  |  |
| <p><b>H 278</b></p> | <p><b><i>ELECTIONS – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding certain election deadlines and the filling of certain vacancies.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends various sections of Idaho Code to enhance and clarify election procedures, particularly concerning the filing of declarations of candidacy and intent for different types of elections, including magistrate, recreation district, library district, and municipal elections. Key updates include the establishment of specific deadlines for candidates to file their declarations, such as requiring declarations of intent for write-in candidates to be submitted during a designated time period rather than a fixed number of days before the election.</p> <p>The bill also introduces new provisions for the registration process, changing the voter registration application deadline from twenty-four days to eleven days before an election, and ensuring that mail registration applications are received by the county clerk by 5:00 p.m. on the eleventh day prior to the election. This does not prohibit election day registration.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill modifies the nomination process for board members and port districts, allowing nominations to be filed during a specified time period and declaring candidates elected without an election if the number of qualified candidates matches the available positions. It also extends the timeframe for county commissioners to canvass election returns from five to nine days. It updates</p> | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/2025</p> | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p> | <p><b>Intergovernmental Affairs</b><br/><b>Position: Support</b><br/><b>IAC Priority</b></p> |

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|       | <p>confidentiality provisions for judicial officers' addresses, allowing them to apply for exemptions for four years.</p> <p>It changes the filing deadline for legislative candidates, statewide candidates, and federal candidates from two weeks to one week. However, the filing window for any election that requires filing with the county clerk is still two weeks long.</p> <p>It also clearly delineates early voting requirements for counties, including that it can start no earlier than three weeks before election day.</p> <p>Overall, the bill aims to streamline election processes and ensure clarity and accessibility for candidates and voters. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 1-2220, 31-4306, 33-2705, 33-2717A, 34-106, 34-408, 34-410, 34-625, 34-625A, 34-702A, 34-704, 34-705, 34-712, 34-714, 34-715, 34-717, 34-1012, 34-1205, 34-1404, 34-1405A, 34-1407, 40-1305C, 42-3211, 50-407, 50-410, 67-4911, 70-1108, 19-6203</p>   |  |                           |  |
| H 310 | <p><b><i>ELECTIONS – Amends existing law to require specific anti-fraud measures to be employed to ensure election ballots are secure.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 34-901 of Idaho Code to enhance the identification and security measures for official election ballots. To ensure the authenticity of ballots, county clerks are required to implement specific anti-fraud measures, which must be tested and verified before each election. The bill emphasizes the importance of maintaining voter confidentiality in accordance with the state constitution.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill introduces new provisions for counties using voting machines, including the assignment of unique identifiers to ballots, the use of watermarked paper, and the printing of holograms to prevent duplication. It also requires that ballots issued for hand counting be stamped with the official designation and election date. The clerk is tasked with maintaining documentation of the security measures and the chain of custody for all ballots. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 34-901</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/2025                   | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | Intergovernmental<br>Affairs                       |
| H 316 | <p><b><i>HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION – Amends existing law to clarify that an Idaho state-issued driver’s license or identification card is required to apply for the homestead property tax exemption.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 63-602G of Idaho Code, which pertains to property tax exemptions for homesteads. The amendments include revisions to the information required on the application for a</p>  | Effective:<br>Retroactive to<br>01/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | Intergovernmental<br>Affairs<br>Revenue & Taxation |

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|       | <p>homestead exemption, specifically clarifying that homeowners must provide their Idaho state-issued driver's license or identification card number, unless they are in active military service.</p> <p>The bill declares an emergency, making it effective immediately upon passage and retroactively applicable to January 1, 2025. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 63-602G</p>  |                        |                               |                              |
| H 339 | <p><b><i>ELECTIONS – Repeals and adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding the accuracy of voter registration information.</i></b></p> <p>This bill aims to enhance the accuracy and integrity of voter registration in Idaho by repealing the existing Section 34-433 of Idaho Code and replacing it with a new section that outlines specific provisions for maintaining accurate voter registration information. The new Section 34-433 mandates that various state entities, including the Department of Health and Welfare, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Corrections, provide relevant data to the Secretary of State on a monthly basis. This data will include information on deceased individuals, changes in driver's license addresses, and details about offenders in custody, among other relevant information. The Secretary of State is also required to request additional data from the state tax commission and the federal government to ensure the integrity of voter registration.</p> <p>Furthermore, the bill establishes a process for the Secretary of State to review new voter registration data before statewide elections, ensuring that ineligible voters are removed from the rolls. It allows for cooperation with other states to compare voter lists and identify individuals registered in multiple states. The Secretary of State is authorized to contract with commercial data providers for assistance in verifying voter registration information, while ensuring that sensitive personal data remains protected.</p> <p>After the Secretary of State completes comparisons of the information provided, the Secretary is required to sort the voter registration information by county and furnish a relevant copy for each county clerk. The clerk is required to immediately review the information and cancel all registrations of individuals reported as deceased or determined ineligible to vote. County clerks and the Secretary of State are required to conduct routine reviews of voter registration records to identify anomalies.</p> <p>Additionally, the Secretary of State is required, in conjunction with the county clerks, to make an annual report to the legislature regarding voter registration maintenance actions performed by them and provide recommendations to improve and ensure effective list maintenance.</p> <p><b>Statutes affected:</b> 34-433, 39-270</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/27 | <a href="#">Engrossment 1</a> | Intergovernmental<br>Affairs |



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| <p><b>H 357</b></p> | <p><b><i>PUBLIC FUNDS – Adds to existing law to establish the America250 Commemoration Fund and the America250 Advisory Committee</i></b></p> <p>This bill establishes the America250 Commemoration Fund and the America250 Advisory Committee in Idaho, aimed at facilitating the state's participation in the celebration of the 250th anniversary of America's founding. A new section, 57-829, is added to Chapter 8, Title 57 of Idaho Code, which outlines the creation of the fund, its purpose, and the management structure. The fund will consist of appropriated amounts from the 2024 legislative session, as well as gifts, grants, and donations. The state treasurer is tasked with investing the fund's idle moneys, with any unobligated funds being transferred to the general fund by June 30, 2027.</p> <p>The America250 Advisory will consist of seven members, including the director of the state historical society, the state treasurer, and appointees from the governor and legislative council. This will oversee the distribution of funds from the commemoration fund and is required to meet at least annually. Additionally, the bill includes provisions for the approval of spending authority for state entities that lack sufficient funds to comply with the directives. The provisions of this act will become void after July 1, 2027, and it is declared to be an emergency measure, taking effect immediately upon passage and approval.</p> | <p>Effective:<br/>04/02/2025</p> <p>Sunsets on<br/>07/01/27</p> | <p><a href="#">Engrossment 1</a></p> | <p><b>Intergovernmental Affairs</b></p> <p><b>Position: Support IAC Policy</b></p> |
| <p><b>H 377</b></p> | <p><b><i>RECALL ELECTIONS – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the recall of city council members elected by district.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 34-1702 of Idaho Code, which outlines the requirements for signatures on petitions for recall elections. The bill introduces new provisions for cities that elect council members based on districts, stating that the petition must be signed by registered electors residing within the specific district, equal to twenty percent of the number of electors registered to vote in the last election for that district. The bill declares an emergency, allowing it to take effect immediately upon passage and approval. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 34-1702</p>  | <p>Effective:<br/>03/28/2025</p>                                | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p>     | <p><b>Intergovernmental Affairs</b></p>  |
| <p><b>H 386</b></p> | <p><b><i>COUNTIES – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding Latah County boundaries and Shoshone County boundaries.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Sections 31-131 and 31-142 of Idaho Code to update the boundary descriptions for Latah County and Shoshone County. It includes new language that clarifies the southwest corner of Shoshone County in relation to Latah County, enhancing the precision of the boundary descriptions.</p>   | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/2025</p>                                | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p>     | <p><b>Intergovernmental Affairs</b></p>  |

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|        | <p>Additionally, the bill deletes the reference to Clearwater County concerning the southern boundary of Latah. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 31-131, 31-142</p>  |                                |                                      |                                  |
| S 1031 | <p><b><i>PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS – Amends existing law to revise certain powers and duties of district boards of health.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 39-414 of Idaho Code, which outlines the powers and duties of district health boards. Key changes include a revision of the language regarding the actions that the district board may undertake to preserve and protect public health. The new language specifies that the board may only undertake actions that are "necessary and reasonable for preserving and protecting public health as supported by scientific evidence," replacing the mandate to "do all things required for the preservation and protection of the public health."</p> <p>Additionally, the bill allows the district board to enter into agreements with state department directors to provide services, subject to certain limitations. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 39-414</p>  | <p>Effective: 07/01/2025</p>   | <p><a href="#">Engrossment 1</a></p> | <p>Intergovernmental Affairs</p> |
| S 1183 | <p><b><i>WILDFIRE STANDARD OF CARE ACT – Adds to existing law to establish the Wildfire Standard of Care Act.</i></b></p> <p>The proposed bill introduces the "Wildfire Standard of Care Act" by adding a new chapter to Title 61 of Idaho Code. This legislation aims to establish a framework for electric corporations to develop and implement wildfire mitigation plans, which the Idaho Public Utilities Commission must approve. The plans are intended to ensure the safe and reliable generation, transmission, and distribution of electric power while addressing wildfire risks. Key components of the plans include identifying high-risk areas, implementing preventative actions, conducting community outreach, and coordinating with various agencies, including local officials, such as county emergency managers, on wildfire preparedness and emergency response plans. The bill mandates annual updates and compliance reports from electric corporations regarding their wildfire mitigation efforts.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill provides a rebuttable presumption of non-negligence for electric corporations in civil actions related to wildfire damages if they have reasonably implemented a commission-approved wildfire mitigation plan. It also outlines the process for electric corporations to access private or public lands for necessary vegetation management and fire mitigation work if access is denied. The legislation establishes exclusive civil remedies for damages related to wildfire mitigation plans, ensuring that the liability framework is clearly defined.</p> | <p>Effective: July 1, 2025</p> | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p>     | <p>Intergovernmental Affairs</p> |

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| <p>S 1202</p> | <p><b><i>APPROPRIATIONS – OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER – Relates to the appropriation to the Office of the State Public Defender for fiscal year 2025.</i></b></p> <p>This bill appropriates additional funds to the Office of the State Public Defender for fiscal year 2026, while also reducing the existing appropriation for personnel costs. Specifically, it allocates a total of \$33,582,100 for the fiscal year 2026, which includes \$10,020,900 from the General Fund and \$2,500,000 from the newly inserted Public Defense Fund for operating expenditures. For fiscal year 2025, the bill similarly appropriates \$6,690,100, with the same funding sources.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill authorizes an increase of 17.96 full-time equivalent positions for the Office of the State Public Defender for the fiscal year 2026.</p> <p>Furthermore, the bill includes a provision that reduces the appropriation to the Office of the State Public Defender by \$1,200,000 for personnel costs from the Public Defense Fund for the fiscal year 2026. The bill declares an emergency, allowing Section 4 to take effect immediately upon passage and approval, while Sections 1 through 3 will take effect on July 1, 2025.</p> | <p>Effective:<br/>Section 4:<br/>04/03/2025</p> <p>Sections 1-3:<br/>07/01/2025</p> | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p> | <p><a href="#">Intergovernmental Affairs</a></p> |
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## PUBLIC LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES

We did not see much movement during the 2025 legislative session on public lands and natural resources. Federal decisions generally affect these issues more than decisions at the state level. That being said, in late January, during the first week of the Trump Administration, President Trump issued an executive order that

effectively put Lava Ridge and other wind projects located on federal land on hold while a study is conducted to determine the best path forward. Governor Little then issued an executive order that requires all relevant state agencies to cooperate and assist however they can with the public land wind energy study.

| Bill  | Title & Summary  | Effective Date          | Latest Version            | Subject                                     |
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| H 389 | <p><b><i>UNCONTROLLED FIRES – Amends and adds to existing law to provide that a fire burning out of control on federal land in Idaho is a nuisance and cost recovery actions related to such fires are subject to a statute of limitations after ten years, and to allow the governor to direct state resources to suppress fires on federal land.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 38-107 of Idaho Code to clarify that any uncontrolled forest or range fire on any land within the state, regardless of ownership, is considered a public nuisance. It requires individuals responsible for such fires to take immediate action to control or extinguish them. It establishes civil liability for the costs incurred by the state in managing these fires.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill introduces a new Section 38-131B, which allows the governor to direct state resources to assist in suppressing uncontrolled fires on federal lands that pose a threat to public safety or property. The state can issue deficiency warrants to cover the costs of these efforts, which will be recovered through civil action. The bill also includes a provision that a statute of limitations will bar civil actions related to fire suppression after ten years.</p> | Effective: Upon passage | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Public Lands &amp; Natural Resources</b> |



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|              | <p>This aims to streamline the process of addressing fire-related damages and ensure timely resolution of claims. The act is declared to be an emergency measure, taking effect immediately upon passage and approval.</p> <p>Governor Little signed this bill, but he also included a letter to the legislature regarding concerns about the Idaho Department of Lands' ability to implement the change due to cuts in funding meant to aid in this process (<a href="#">Click here</a> to read the governor's transmittal letter). <b>Statutes affected:</b> 38-107</p>   |  |                           |   |
| <b>HCR 8</b> | <p><b><i>LAVA RIDGE – States findings of the Legislature, expresses concern and opposition towards the Lava Ridge wind energy project, and requests that the State of Idaho monitor the project and assist in applicable reviews.</i></b></p> <p>House Concurrent Resolution No. 8 expresses the Idaho Legislature's opposition to the Bureau of Land Management's approval of the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project, which involves leasing public land in Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties for the construction of at least 231 wind turbines. The resolution highlights widespread local opposition, citing concerns over the project's impact on cultural and historical sites, wildlife, local economies, and the fragile geology of the Snake River Aquifer. It also notes that the energy produced would primarily benefit Southern Nevada and California, rather than Idaho, and emphasizes the potential strain on local housing and workforce resources during the construction period.</p> <p>The resolution calls for state agencies to cooperate with local governments in reviewing the project and requests that Idaho's Attorney General and Governor work to prevent the project's advancement. It aligns with President Trump's executive order, which seeks a comprehensive review of federal wind energy project approvals. Ultimately, the Legislature supports a no-build option for the Lava Ridge project, reflecting the concerns of Idaho residents and the potential negative impacts on the Magic Valley region.</p> |  | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Infrastructure, Land Use &amp; Transportation</b><br><b>Public Lands &amp; Natural Resources</b> |
| <b>HJM 5</b> | <p><b><i>LAVA RIDGE – States findings of the Legislature, expresses concern and opposition towards the Lava Ridge wind energy project, and requests additional federal intervention.</i></b></p> <p>House Joint Memorial No. 5 expresses the opposition of the Idaho Legislature to the Lava Ridge Wind Energy Project, which has been approved by the Bureau of Land Management. The memorial highlights concerns raised by various state officials, including Governor Brad Little and Attorney General Raul Labrador, regarding the project's potential negative impacts on local communities,</p>   |  | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Infrastructure, Land Use &amp; Transportation</b><br><b>Public Lands &amp; Natural Resources</b> |

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|  | <p>wildlife, and the environment. It emphasizes that the project would not benefit Idaho, as the energy produced would primarily serve Southern Nevada and California, and it raises issues related to housing shortages, economic instability, and damage to the Snake River Aquifer.</p> <p>The memorial calls for federal intervention to permanently prohibit the Lava Ridge project, aligning with President Trump's executive order that mandates a review of federal leasing and permitting practices for wind energy projects. The resolution requests that the Secretary of the Interior consider a temporary moratorium on the project and conduct a comprehensive analysis of its impacts. The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives is tasked with forwarding the memorial to relevant congressional leaders and the President of the United States.</p> |  |  |  |
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## REVENUE & TAXATION

Tax relief was one of the legislature's defining topics, with \$450 million in tax cuts and credits granted through income tax cuts, increases to the grocery tax credit, and appropriating \$100 million dedicated specifically to property tax relief (H304).

The IAC worked closely with bill sponsors to help mitigate impacts on counties of a significant change in tax policy with the shift from

electric and gas utilities having their centrally assessed property taxed to a rate-regulated utility tax (H329). IAC also helped to shepherd House Bill 130, allowing significant changes to the property tax exemption application process for hospitals, including allowing the consideration of community benefit along with other factors.

| Bill  | Title & Summary   | Effective Date           | Latest Version                | Subject  |
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| H 104 | <p><b><i>BUILDING CODE ACT – Amends existing law to provide a definition for agricultural buildings and that counties shall not alter the provisions of the section.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 39-4116 of Idaho Code by introducing a new definition for "agricultural buildings," which includes various structures used in agricultural operations, while explicitly excluding places of human habitation, employment, or utilized by the public. It also prohibits counties from imposing additional restrictions on agricultural buildings, such as size limitations, requiring maximum travel distances to exits of agricultural buildings, or requirements for automatic sprinkler systems.</p> <p><b>Statutes affected:</b> 39-4116</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a>     | <p>Revenue &amp; Taxation<br/>Infrastructure, Land Use &amp; Transportation<br/>Position: Oppose</p> |
| H 130 | <p><b><i>PROPERTY TAXES – Amends existing law to provide that a county board of equalization may exempt the property of certain hospitals from property taxes.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 63-602D of Idaho Code, which pertains to property tax exemptions for certain hospitals. The key changes include a shift from mandatory exemptions to a discretionary basis,</p>  | Effective:<br>01/01/2026 | <a href="#">Engrossment 1</a> | <p>Revenue &amp; Taxation<br/>Position: Support<br/>IAC Policy</p>                                   |

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|              | <p>allowing the board of equalization to determine whether property owned by hospital corporations or county hospitals may be exempted from taxation.</p> <p>It limits the nonprofit hospital property tax exemption to only hospitals and nonprofit medical clinics as defined in 39-1319 Idaho Code, and nonprofit critical access hospitals and nonprofit rural emergency hospitals as defined in Idaho Code.</p> <p>The change in definition no longer allows hospital acute care, outreach, outpatient, ancillary, and support facilities to be included in the definition of a non-profit hospital.</p> <p>Furthermore, the bill requires additional audited information to be provided by the non-profit hospital to be used to determine eligibility for the non-profit hospital property tax exemption. Statutes affected: 63-602D</p> |  |                           |   |
| <b>H 304</b> | <p><b><i>PROPERTY TAX RELIEF – Amends existing law to provide for property tax relief.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends two sections of Idaho Code, specifically Section 33-911 regarding the School District Facilities Fund and Section 57-811 concerning the Tax Relief Fund. The amendments to Section 33-911 establish that \$50 million in the School District Facilities Fund are continuously appropriated for the purposes outlined in the section, which includes funding for the construction and renovation of school facilities.</p> <p>Section 57-811 mandates that \$50 million be transferred from the Tax Relief Fund to the homeowner property tax relief account (HTR).</p> <p>An emergency clause is included, allowing the act to take effect immediately upon passage.</p>   | Effective:<br>03/26/2025                   | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Revenue &amp; Taxation</b>                                   |
| <b>H 316</b> | <p><b><i>HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION – Amends existing law to clarify that an Idaho state-issued driver’s license or identification card is required to apply for the homestead property tax exemption.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 63-602G of Idaho Code, which pertains to property tax exemptions for homesteads. The amendments include revisions to the information required on the application for a homestead exemption, specifically clarifying that homeowners must provide their Idaho state-issued driver's license or identification card number, unless they are in active military service.</p>   | Effective:<br>Retroactive to<br>01/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Intergovernmental<br/>Affairs<br/>Revenue &amp; Taxation</b> |

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|       | <p>Additionally, the bill stipulates that if a homeowner is new to the state of Idaho and does not yet possess an Idaho state-issued ID, they must provide their Idaho driver's license or ID number to the county assessor within 90 days of their initial application.</p> <p>The bill declares an emergency, making it effective immediately upon passage and retroactively applicable to January 1, 2025. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 63-602G</p>  |                          |                           |   |
| H 329 | <p><b><i>TAXATION – Amends and adds to existing law to provide certain property tax exemptions for certain utilities and to provide for a tax on rate-regulated electric companies and gas companies.</i></b></p> <p>The bill proposes comprehensive changes to the taxation framework for rate-regulated electric utility companies, affiliated gas companies, and gas companies in Idaho. It repeals several sections of Idaho Code, including Section 63-205B, which addresses the assessment of operating property for these utilities, and Section 63-602O, which pertains to certain property exemptions from taxation. The bill amends Section 63-405 to clarify that the state tax commission will only assess "taxable" operating property and outlines the procedures for determining system value and apportionment. New provisions are introduced to exempt electricity used for irrigation and to clarify the taxation process for rate-regulated companies.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill amends Section 63-602JJ to specify exemptions for property owned by rate-regulated electric utility companies and affiliated gas companies, while detailing the taxation of renewable energy producers. It introduces a kilowatt-hour tax for electric utility companies and a thermal energy tax for gas companies, with specified rates. The bill mandates that these taxes be treated as property tax revenue for budget limitations and requires utility companies to include these taxes in customer billings starting January 1, 2027.</p> <p>In addition, it provides that any departure from market value in an assessment of operating property made to ensure compliance with federal law or precedent will be considered an exemption.</p> <p>It also establishes a framework for the calculation, collection, and distribution of these taxes, including penalties for late payments and provisions for new taxing districts formed after January 1, 2025. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 63-205B, 63-405, 63-6020, 63-602JJ, 63-603, 63-3502B, 63-3503C, 63-3506</p> | Effective:<br>01/01/2026 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Revenue &amp; Taxation</b><br><b>Position: Support</b> |
| H 354 | <p><b><i>PROPERTY TAXES – Amends existing law to revise provisions related to the assessment of market value and the homestead exemption.</i></b></p>  | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Revenue &amp; Taxation</b><br><b>Position: Support</b> |



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|       | <p>This bill amends various sections of Idaho Code concerning property taxes, with a focus on market value assessment, appeals to the Board of Tax Appeals, and the homestead exemption. It mandates that assessors use recognized appraisal methods to ensure that the median ratio of assessed value to market value remains between 90% and 110%.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill clarifies the burden of proof in appeals, stating that if a property's taxable value increases by more than 10% due to improper assessment methods, the burden shifts to the party seeking the value increase.</p> <p>Additionally, it clarifies how to implement the homeowner's exemption in a uniform manner using a new formula with levy rates multiplied by the value of the home, either with or without the homeowner's exemption, by the days of ownership, divided by 365 or 366 days, depending on the year. (See S1216 for trailer bill with further changes.) <b>Statutes affected:</b> 63-208, 63-511, 63-602G, 63-903</p> |   |                               |                    |
| H 355 | <p><b><i>TAXATION – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the deferral of property tax.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 63-714 of Idaho Code to revise the provisions regarding the deferral of property tax for qualified claimants. Key changes include the inclusion of delinquencies, interest, late charges, costs, and fees in the deferral process.</p> <p>Additionally, it allows applications for deferral submitted after the September deadline to be accepted and processed without accruing interest or penalties until the following January, provided they do not include delinquencies for more than two tax years. The bill also clarifies that qualified claimants can apply for property tax deferral in subsequent years. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 63-714</p>  | Effective:<br>07/01/2025                | <a href="#">Engrossment 2</a> | Revenue & Taxation |
| H 436 | <p><b><i>URBAN RENEWAL – Amends and adds to existing law to provide for the dissolution of urban renewal agencies and termination of urban renewal plans and to allow fire protection districts and ambulance service districts to opt out of certain urban renewal financing provisions.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends various sections of Idaho Code concerning urban renewal agencies, focusing on the dissolution process, definitions, and technical corrections. It introduces new provisions that allow a local governing body that created an urban renewal agency to dissolve the urban renewal agency through an ordinance after adopting a resolution of intent, which must be communicated to the</p>  | Effective:<br>Retroactive<br>01/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a>     | Revenue & Taxation |

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|        | <p>agency. This resolution results in the agency losing the authority to initiate new projects or incur financial obligations.</p> <p>Upon dissolution, the local governing body is required to transmit a copy of the recorded dissolution ordinance to the urban renewal agency, county clerk, and state tax commission within 10 days. The bill also adds a definition for “manufacturing project.”</p> <p><b>Statutes affected:</b> 50-2006, 50-2005, 50-2903, 50-2903A, 50-2904, 50-2906, 50-2907, 50-2908, 63-301A, 50-2905, 50-2905A, 63-602KK, 63-802</p>  |                          |                           |                               |
| S 1216 | <p><b><i>PROPERTY TAXES – Amends House Bill 354 to revise provisions regarding the rules pertaining to market value.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 63-208 of Idaho Code, which pertains to determining market value for property tax assessments. The amendment requires the state tax commission to ensure that assessors find the market value of all taxable property using recognized appraisal methods, emphasizing that actual and functional use must be a major consideration.</p> <p>Notably, the bill introduces a requirement that the level of assessment for each category of property tested must not differ by more than five percentage points from other categories, requiring it to be provable with reasonable statistical certainty to other categories tested. The assessment is still required to reflect a median ratio of assessed value to market value within a range of 90% to 110%, using statistical methods to ensure compliance. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 63-208</p> | Effective:<br>01/01/2026 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Revenue &amp; Taxation</b> |

## JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

A number of bills within the realm of Justice & Public Safety impacting counties passed the legislature this year, including two of IAC’s priorities for the 2025 Legislative Session, as well as two IAC supported policies.

While counties did not get everything we asked for regarding changes to public defense, the compromise bill did have some essential pieces supported by IAC, particularly with regards to strengthening language regarding the roles and responsibilities of judicial district public defenders and further limiting county

responsibilities in providing non-criminal indigent defense (like for private termination of parental rights), replacing ABA standards with Idaho-based indigent defense standards, and moving up the date to begin transitioning state public defenders out of county provided office space. Unfortunately, the bill also included language requiring counties to cover facility costs related to utilities, cleaning, snow removal, and building maintenance. IAC offered up amendments to further limit county obligations for utilities and cleaning services; however, the amendments were not accepted.

| Bill | Title & Summary   | Effective Date           | Latest Version            | Subject                 |
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| H 6  | <p><i>CITY AND COUNTY OFFICERS – Amends and adds to existing law to remove a provision regarding violations of the open meetings law by county officers, to authorize investigations and actions against city officers by the attorney general, and to provide for duties of the attorney general.</i></p> <p>This bill amends various sections of Idaho Code concerning the duties of the Attorney General in relation to investigations of county and city elected officials. Specifically, introduces a new section, 50-238, which grants the attorney general the authority to investigate criminal allegations against city elected officials for potential violations of state criminal law in their official capacity.</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | Justice & Public Safety |

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|       | <p>Additionally, the bill makes it clear that the section does not give the attorney general exclusive jurisdiction to conduct an investigation. A county prosecuting attorney may still investigate and prosecute a violation or refer the violation to a neighboring county to investigate and prosecute.</p> <p><b>Statutes affected:</b> 31-2002, 50-238, 67-1401</p>  |  |                                      |   |
| H 7   | <p><b><i>UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES – Amends existing law to provide a penalty for possession of less than three ounces of marijuana.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 37-2732 of Idaho Code, which outlines the penalties for various prohibited acts related to controlled substances. Key changes include the introduction of penalties for possession of marijuana, specifying that possession of three ounces or less will be classified as a misdemeanor, subject to a fine of at least \$300 for individuals aged 18 and older. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 37-2732</p>  | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/2025</p>                               | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p>     | <p>Justice &amp; Public Safety</p>                            |
| H 13  | <p><b><i>RULES OF THE ROAD – Amends existing law to exempt UTVs that are equipped with a roll cage and seat belts from safety helmet requirements.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 49-666 of Idaho Code to establish new safety requirements, utility-type vehicle (UTV) and all-terrain vehicle (ATV) operators and passengers. It introduces an exemption from safety helmet requirements for individuals operating or riding in certain vehicles, specifically those that are completely enclosed autocycles or UTVs equipped with a roll cage and seat belts.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill mandates that any operator or passenger in a UTV who is 16 years of age or younger must wear a properly fastened safety restraint while the vehicle is in motion.</p> <p>Furthermore, the bill outlines the penalties for non-compliance, allowing for citations to be issued to occupants who fail to wear safety restraints, as well as to operators of UTVs with non-compliant passengers. A fine of \$50 will be imposed for such violations, but these citations will not result in violation point counts or be classified as moving traffic violations for insurance purposes. The bill declares an emergency and sets an effective date of July 1, 2025, for its provisions. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 49-666</p> | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/2025</p>                               | <p><a href="#">Engrossment 1</a></p> | <p>Justice &amp; Public Safety</p>                            |
| H 133 | <p><b><i>TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES – Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding clean indoor air and prevention of minors’ access to tobacco products and electronic smoking devices.</i></b></p>   | <p>Effective:<br/>07/01/2025<br/>IDAPA Sunset<br/>Clause -</p> | <p><a href="#">Bill Text</a></p>     | <p>Justice &amp; Public Safety<br/><br/>Position: Support</p> |

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|       | <p>The bill amends various sections of Idaho Code concerning the regulation of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices. It moves certain regulations from Rule to statutes, including definitions for the following: "Bar within a restaurant," "Bowling alley," and "Educational facility," while repealing and replacing Section 39-5508 to require the posting of signs in designated areas. The legislation also revises existing definitions and provisions related to civil penalties for violations and enforcement actions, emphasizing compliance with new signage requirements and the necessity for retailers to obtain permits for selling tobacco products or electronic smoking devices.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill mandates annual permits for each permanent business location, with new provisions for permit endorsements and employee education on compliance. It establishes that permits will be closed if a business ceases operations, relocates, or is sold, and outlines the revocation process for fraudulent activities. The legislation prohibits the sale of tobacco products from vending machines or self-service displays. It introduces a structured penalty system for repeated violations, including fines and potential permit suspension or revocation. It also details enforcement actions, including random inspections and compliance checks involving minors, while setting a timeline for the new regulations to take effect by July 1, 2025. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 39-5502, 39-5508, 39-5508, 39-5702, 39-5704, 39-5706, 39-5708, 39-5710, 39-5712, 39-5717, 39-8421, 56-227F</p> | SECTION 14 & 15       |                               |   |
| H 185 | <p><b><i>IDAHO STATE POLICE – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the catastrophic search subaccount in the Search and Rescue Fund.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 67-2913 of Idaho Code, which pertains to the Search and Rescue Fund, specifically addressing the management of moneys within its subaccounts. Key changes include the revision of the reimbursement threshold for the catastrophic search subaccount, increasing the amount from four thousand dollars (\$4,000) to eight thousand dollars (\$8,000). Additionally, the bill updates the responsible agency from the "department of law enforcement" to the "Idaho state police."</p> <p>The fund's structure remains intact, with provisions for allocating funds across various subaccounts, including cost reimbursement, training, and equipment purchase matching.</p> <p>The bill also establishes a process for reimbursement claims by sheriff's offices, stipulating that claims exceeding the new threshold will be reimbursed in a tiered manner, with the first eight thousand dollars covered by the cost reimbursement subaccount and any excess funded by the</p>  | Effective: 07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Engrossment 1</a> | <p><b>Justice &amp; Public Safety</b></p> <p><b>Position: Support</b></p> |



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|              | catastrophic search subaccount. In cases where funds are insufficient to cover all claims in a given quarter, reimbursements will be made on a pro rata basis. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 67-2913   |  |                           |  |
| <b>H 206</b> | <p><b><i>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to transfer emergency medical services responsibilities to the Idaho Military Division.</i></b></p> <p>The proposed bill seeks to improve the structure and administration of emergency medical services (EMS) in Idaho by transferring oversight from the Department of Health and Welfare to the Idaho Military Division. It establishes the "Emergency Medical Services Act" within Title 46 of Idaho Code, detailing the responsibilities of the new EMS program, including hiring a medical director and creating regulations for licensing and certification.</p> <p>The bill also introduces provisions for the distribution of EMS funds and sets criteria for grant applications to support nonprofit and governmental entities involved in EMS. Additionally, it amends existing sections of Idaho Code to streamline the regulatory framework, update definitions, and establish penalties for violations, with a target implementation date of July 1, 2025.</p> <p>It expands how EMS grants can be utilized and clarifies the roles of supervisory physicians. (See two trailer bills H207 &amp; S1121) <b>Statutes affected:</b> 56-1011 through 56-1016, 56-1023, 56-1024, 56-1026, 56-1030, 57-2004, 57-2007, 57-2005, 6-902A, 9-203, 18-915, 31-3908, 33-4302, 39-1392, 39-1393, 39-4703, 39-8202, 46-1007, 49-123, 49-306, 49-452, 49-910A, 56-1003, 63-3622O, 67-8802, 67-8806, 72-451, 74-106, 56-1013A, 56-1020, 56-1021, 56-1022, 56-1025, 56-1027, 56-1028, 56-1029, 57-2001, 57-2002, 57-2003, 57-2006, 56-1018, 56-1018A, 56-1018B</p> | House, Mar 19, 2025:<br>08/01/2025<br>SECTION 50, 51, & 52 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <p><b>Justice &amp; Public Safety</b></p> <p><b>Position: Support IAC Policy</b></p> |
| <b>H 207</b> | <p><b><i>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – Repeals and adds to existing law to provide for the recognition of the EMS personnel licensure interstate compact.</i></b></p> <p>The bill introduces a new Chapter 9 to Title 46 of Idaho Code, establishing the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (REPLICA). This compact is designed to enhance the mobility of EMS personnel across state lines while maintaining public safety through verified competency and accountability in patient care. Key objectives include increasing public access to EMS personnel, improving patient safety, and facilitating the licensing of military members and their spouses. The bill also outlines the governance structure for an interstate commission that will oversee the licensure and regulation of EMS personnel, including provisions for adverse actions,</p>  | Effective:<br>07/01/2025                                   | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <p><b>Justice &amp; Public Safety</b></p> <p><b>Position: Support IAC Policy</b></p> |

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|       | <p>the establishment of a coordinated database for licensure information, and the authority to issue subpoenas.</p> <p>In addition to creating the new compact, the bill repeals several outdated sections of Idaho Code related to the previous EMS personnel licensure interstate compact. It emphasizes transparency in the commission's operations, mandates public participation in rulemaking, and provides for legal protections for commission members. The compact will take effect once enacted by the tenth member state, with provisions for states to withdraw with notice while ensuring that existing obligations remain until the withdrawal is finalized. (This is a trailer to House Bill 206.) <b>Statutes affected:</b> Repeals 56-1013B through 56-1013Q</p>   |                          |                               |  |
| H 264 | <p><b><i>PROTECTING THE PRIVACY OF WOMEN – Adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding safety and privacy in certain covered entities and to provide for remedies.</i></b></p> <p>The proposed bill amends Title 67 of Idaho Code by adding a new Chapter 98, which focuses on protecting the privacy of women in various covered entities, including correctional facilities, domestic violence shelters, juvenile correctional centers, and state educational institutions. The bill defines key terms such as "changing room," "covered entity," and "multi-occupancy." It establishes provisions that require these entities to designate restrooms, changing rooms, and sleeping quarters for exclusive use by either females or males. It mandates that individuals may only enter facilities designated for their sex, with specific exceptions for custodial services, medical assistance, law enforcement assistance, and to supervise any arrestee, detainee, or inmate in a custodial setting, as well as other outlined circumstances.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill provides individuals with a private cause of action for declaratory and injunctive relief if they encounter a person of the opposite sex in designated facilities or are required to share sleeping quarters with someone of the opposite sex. It stipulates that civil actions must be initiated within two years of the violation and allows for the recovery of attorney's fees and costs for prevailing plaintiffs.</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Engrossment 1</a> | Justice & Public Safety<br>Position: Support |
| H 321 | <p><b><i>PROPERTY RIGHTS – Adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding a limited alternative remedy to remove unauthorized persons from residential real property, to provide for the crime of making false statements to detain real property, and to provide for the crime of fraudulent sale or lease of residential real property.</i></b></p>   | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a>     | Justice & Public Safety                      |

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|        | <p>This bill amends Idaho law to introduce new provisions aimed at enhancing property rights and addressing issues related to unauthorized occupancy and fraudulent property transactions. A new section, 6-310A, is added to establish a limited alternative remedy for property owners to remove unauthorized persons from residential real property. This section outlines the conditions under which a property owner or their authorized agent can request immediate removal by the sheriff, including the requirement that the property was not open to the public at the time of unauthorized entry and that the unauthorized occupants are not current or former tenants or immediate family members. The process involves submitting a verified complaint to the sheriff, who is then responsible for serving a notice to vacate and restoring possession to the property owner.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill introduces two new sections under Chapter 36, Title 18, Idaho Code, addressing criminal activities related to real property. Section 18-3621 makes it a misdemeanor to present false documents with the intent to detain real property, while Section 18-3622 establishes that listing or advertising property for sale or lease without legal authority constitutes a felony.</p>   |                          |                           |  |
| S 1101 | <p><b><i>CORONERS – Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to revise and establish provisions regarding the duties of county coroners.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends various sections of Idaho Code related to the responsibilities and procedures of county coroners. Key changes include the establishment of specific circumstances under which a coroner must investigate a death, such as suspected homicides, suicides, and deaths occurring under suspicious circumstances. The bill also introduces a new section defining the powers and duties of county coroners, emphasizing their role as medicolegal death investigators responsible for determining the cause and manner of death.</p> <p>Additionally, it mandates that coroners complete continuing education requirements using sponsored or approved courses approved by a nationally recognized certifying body to certify county coroners.</p> <p>It also outlines the process for conducting autopsies, including the need for parental notification when a minor is involved.</p> <p>Further amendments include the repeal of outdated provisions regarding the appointment of deputies and the revision of terminology related to human remains. The bill also clarifies the definitions of key terms such as "forensic autopsy" and "medicolegal death investigation." <b>Statutes affected:</b> 19-4301, 19-4301B, 31-2808, 31-2809, 31-2810, 31-3107, 34-622, 39-252</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <p><b>Justice &amp; Public Safety</b></p> <p><b>Position: Support IAC Policy</b></p> |

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| S 1120 | <p><b><i>CRISIS RESPONSE FOR PERSONS WITH A NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDER – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding placing certain persons in protective custody without a hearing.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 56-1904 of Idaho Code, which pertains to the protective custody of individuals with neurocognitive disorders. It establishes that no person can be taken into protective custody without a court order, except in cases where a peace officer or healthcare provider believes the individual poses an imminent danger to themselves or others. The bill clarifies that if a person is taken into custody without a court order, evidence supporting the claim must be presented to a court within 24 hours. Additionally, it mandates that if a court finds sufficient reason to believe the individual is dangerous, a temporary protective custody order must be issued, requiring the individual to be held in a hospital and examined by a healthcare provider within 24 hours.</p> <p>The bill also includes provisions for the release of individuals who no longer meet the criteria for protective custody. If the individual is found to be dangerous, a petition for continued protective placement must be filed within 24 hours. The court must then hold a hearing within five days of the protective placement order.</p> <p>Furthermore, the bill emphasizes the importance of notifying the individual's legal guardian or next of kin upon taking them into custody. <b>Statutes affected:</b> 56-1904</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Justice &amp; Public Safety</b>  |
| S 1121 | <p><b><i>COUNTIES – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding prohibiting the final disposition of dead human bodies.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 31-2808 of Idaho Code, which addresses the final disposition of dead human bodies. The bill removes the term "employee" from the list of individuals restricted from performing these services and adds "or proprietor" to clarify the roles affected by this prohibition.</p> <p><b>Statutes affected:</b> 31-2808</p>   | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Justice &amp; Public Safety</b><br><br><b>Position: Support IAC Policy</b> |
| S 1139 | <p><b><i>PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL – Amends existing law to provide for the rejection of certain applicants due to certain criminal histories.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Section 19-5109 of Idaho Code, focusing on the certification process for peace officers and the criteria for rejecting applicants based on their criminal history. It specifies that the council shall reject any applicant who has been convicted of any felony that could result in imprisonment, as well as misdemeanors. The bill also clarifies that the council may reject applicants</p>   | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <b>Justice &amp; Public Safety</b><br><br><b>Position: Support</b>            |

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|        | <p>with felony convictions that have been set aside, expunged, or pardoned, or reduced to a misdemeanor.</p> <p>Additionally, it defines "convicted" to include various legal outcomes, emphasizing that the nature of the judgment does not affect the rejection criteria.</p> <p><b>Statutes affected:</b> 19-5109</p>   |                          |                           |  |
| S 1159 | <p><b><i>EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – Amends House Bill 206 to revise provisions regarding the use and distribution of emergency medical services funds and county accountability.</i></b></p> <p>This bill amends Section 46-905 of Idaho Code to revise the provisions regarding the use and distribution of emergency medical services (EMS) funds and county accountability. It removes the previous requirement from H206 for counties to submit an approved plan for coordinating emergency medical services responses, streamlining the application process. (This is a trailer bill for H206.)</p>   | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <p><b>Justice &amp; Public Safety</b></p> <p><b>Position: Support</b></p> <p><b>IAC Policy</b></p> |
| S 1181 | <p><b><i>PUBLIC DEFENSE – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding the Office of the State Public Defender and indigent public defense in this state.</i></b></p> <p>The bill amends Idaho Code to improve public defense services for indigent defendants by redefining the responsibilities of the State Public Defender. Key changes include requiring the State Public Defender to employ qualified defense attorneys and support staff, establishing Idaho-specific standards for indigent defense, and submitting a budget request that outlines a plan for transitioning to state-owned facilities by 2027 instead of 2029.</p> <p>The bill also clarifies that the state will take full financial and legal responsibility for providing indigent public defense, thereby relieving counties of these obligations. Notably, it removes previous provisions related to the Public Defense Commission and the requirement for counties to employ or contract defense personnel.</p> <p>Additionally, the bill sets forth new requirements for collaboration between the State Public Defender and district public defenders to establish workload standards and ensure compliance with indigent defense standards. It specifies that the Office of the State Public Defender is only required to provide services in certain cases, including felony and misdemeanor cases, juvenile corrections actions, and civil contempt proceedings. The bill also outlines the conditions under which counties</p> | Effective:<br>07/01/2025 | <a href="#">Bill Text</a> | <p><b>Justice &amp; Public Safety</b></p> <p><b>IAC Priority</b></p>                               |



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|  | must provide office space to the State Public Defender until July 1, 2029, and clarifies what is reimbursable to the county. |  |  |  |
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60 bills