



Week 2 Idaho Legislative Update for January 18-22, 2021

The second week of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature saw a significant increase in committee meetings and hearings. Several committees continue to introduce legislation while other committees are meeting for the first time. The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) continues to work through the budget process in conjunction with departments and agencies requesting budget approvals.

As the session continues, many Chairmen are allowing legislators to continue introducing legislative bills first in their committees and have chosen to delay agency bills and rulemaking for later in the session. Other Chairmen have started in on reviewing rules, and some Senate Chairmen are working through Gubernatorial appointments. Finally, other Chairmen are starting to work through their assigned rulemaking obligations in conjunction with the introduction of agency legislation and other general legislation. This hybrid and disjointed approach to doing the people's business has been both jarring and confusing. We believe this process will continue for the duration of the 2021 session.

This session kicked off with legislation to limit the executive branch's powers. These bills and resolutions have begun to be debated on the House and Senate floors, with more bills on the way. The Amendment process for both House and Senate may be used for bills, but resolutions cannot be amended, and as such, we may see several more drafts that are very similar. Both the Senate and the House State Affairs committees mentioned this as a possibility in committee this week.

While it is only the end of the second week of the session, Governor Little held a press conference to close out a very contentious week on Friday, January 22. His comments pertaining to the legislative actions surrounding Idaho's Emergency declarations were both bold and direct. Governor Little outlined the federal funding components and other vital parts of the relief effort for Idaho while also reiterating the strong position of the state against the backdrop of the rest of the nation. Governor Little stated the importance of this funding to handle the logistics of administering vaccines and funding to protect Idaho from COVID-19 and at the same time, he offered a stern rebuke to the legislature for their mischaracterizations of him and the state's handling of the pandemic.

The Governor finished his comments by saying that if the emergency declaration ended, the cost and burden will be shifted to Idaho's citizens and jeopardize the state's economic recovery process and Idahoans' lives.

Here is the link to the [PRESS CONFERENCE](#), and the [PRESS RELEASE](#) directly following the Press Conference.

Despite the contentious atmosphere, many legislators are reaching out and eager to help us with our priorities. Despite the pandemic and safety protocols, we are finding new and different ways to work with legislators both remotely and in-person to achieve your goals and advance your ideas. We will continue to safely and respectfully participate in the process to advocate on your behalf.

In addition to the comments and tracking of bills we are focused on, all bills from the session can be tracked [HERE](#). We monitor this daily and will be on the lookout for anything that may be of relevance.



Benn Brocksome
&
ASSOCIATES

Policy Update

This week we had the pleasure of participating in and presenting at the 2021 Virtual Day on the Hill. While it was a unique and socially distanced event this year it was fun, informative and a success!

We also had the opportunity to talk with Insurance Director Dean Cameron who took time out of his birthday to share his thoughts and plans for the session as well as give a comprehensive update. As per usual, we will be following up with him over lunch in the next couple weeks and we will track the progress of legislation throughout the session as well as taking opportunities to support where appropriate.

In preparation for the Virtual Day on the Hill, we assisted with Pre-recorded videos from Senate Caucus Chair Mark Harris, Senate Health and Welfare Chair Fred Martin, and House Health and Welfare Vice Chairwoman Laurie Lickley.

We are also continuing to meet with Health and Welfare Committee members and Chairmen of both committees on issues and bills that the committee may see during the session.

Rules:

Below is a review of the rules dockets that have been working their way through both the house and senate.

Rules Approved by House Health and Welfare Committee 1/19

[Agenda and Dockets](#)

24-0301-2000F Chiropractic Physicians

24-0601-2000F Occupational Therapists & Occupational Therapy Assistants

24-0901-2000F Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators

24-1001-2000F Optometry

24-1101-2000F Podiatry

24-1401-2000F Social Work Examiners

24-1601-2000F Dentistry

24-1701-2000F Acupuncture

24-1901-2000F Examiners of Residential Care Facility Administrators

24-2301-2000F Speech, Hearing, and Communication Services

24-2401-2000F Genetic Counselors

24-2601-2000F Midwifery

24-2701-2000F Massage Therapy



24-3101-2000F Dentistry

24-1301-2000F Physical Therapy Licensure Board

24-3300-2000F Board of Medicine - Omnibus

24-1201-2000F Psychologist Examiners

24-1501-2000F Professional Counselors & Marriage & Family Therapists

24-3401-2000F Nursing

24-3601-2000F Pharmacy

24-3303-2001 Board of Medicine - General Provisions

Rules Approved by Senate health and Welfare 1/20

[Agenda and Dockets](#)

24-0501-2000F Board of Drinking Water and Wastewater Professionals

24-0601-2000F Licensure of Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants

24-0901-2000F Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators

24-1001-2000F State Board of Optometry

24-1101-2000F State Board of Podiatry

24-1401-2000F State Board of Social Work Examiners

24-1601-2000F State Board of Dentistry

24-1701-2000F State Board of Acupuncture

24-1901-2000F Board of Examiners of Residential Care Facility Administrators

24-2301-2000F Speech, Hearing, and Communication Services Licensure Board

24-2401-2000F Genetic Counselors Licensing Board

24-2601-2000F Idaho Board of Midwifery

24-2701-2000F Idaho State Board of Massage Therapy

24-3101-2000F Idaho State Board of Dentistry

24-1301-2000F Physical Therapy Licensure Board

24-3300-2000F Board of Medicine for the Licensure to Practice Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine in Idaho (Omnibus)



24-1201-2000F Idaho State Board of Psychologist Examiners

24-1501-2000F Idaho Licensing Board of Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists

24-3401-2000F Idaho Board of Nursing

24-3601-2000F Idaho State Board of Pharmacy

24-3303-2001 General Provisions of the Board of Medicine

Rules Approved by House Health and Welfare Committee 1/21

[Agenda and Dockets](#)

16-0309-2002 Medicaid Basic Plan Benefits David Welsh, Bureau Chief

16-0309-2004 Medicaid Basic Plan Benefits Alexandra Fernandez, Bureau Chief

16-0310-2002 Medicaid Enhanced Plan Benefits Alexandra Fernandez, Bureau Chief

16-0321-2001 Development Disabilities Agencies Lori Wolff, Deputy Director

16-0417-2001 Residential Habilitation Agencies Lori Wolff, Deputy Director

16-0307-2001 Home Health Agencies Lori Wolff, Deputy Director

16-0000-2000F Omnibus for Fee Rules Lori Wolff, Deputy Director