

July 2022 Monthly Report

The month of June 2022 was full of many negotiated rule makings, agencies' board and commission meetings and discussions with agencies on implementation of current policies. Many agencies have also begun the initial steps to prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session by establishing their ideas for their budgets and legislation. BB&A has been working with agencies and attending these meetings closely to provide you with the most up-to-date information.

Each year, July brings to fruition the new fiscal year and implementation of the new budget for the state. July also marks the point in which all bills from the 2022 Idaho legislative session that were signed into law are now in effect. This is a traditional halfway point between sessions where agencies and policymakers switch from last session to next session and the process beings again. Agencies are now looking to have next year's budgets and policy priorities set by October for the next session.

June saw many agencies and boards working through the continuation of zero-based regulation (ZBR) rulemaking for agencies, per the Governor's Executive Order 2020-01, which maintains goals to cut restrictive language and unnecessary regulations. As agencies work through many updates to rules, they seek to find the balance between which cuts are beneficial and what rules may be necessary. We are currently participating in many discussions and negotiations with agencies and watching the rulemaking process closely. This is important work that often goes unnoticed until the rules are proposed to the legislature for approval in January but being in the discussions now protects our interests and ensures we advance your goals and objectives in the statehouse.

The Idaho Legislative Council, comprised of House and Senate leadership and their appointees, also met during June signaling the start of interim committees and paving the way for big topics and policy issues leading into the 2023 Session. Issues that leadership would like to see solved lead to interim committees that are formed by the wishes of the Council. Elections, property taxes, and judicial council are some of issues that may require a committee to be formed. The Council also aims at finding a solution to the trouble they've faced with public school employee health insurance funding through a possible working group. Lastly the council worked on language for a ballot proposition that would create a constitutional amendment allowing the legislature to call themselves back into session whenever they wanted.

In addition to the full calendar of interim meetings and rulemakings, we are also meeting with new and retuning legislators throughout the state to develop and deepen relationships. With the 2022 General Election in November and hotly contested races for House and Senate leadership forming, next session is sure to be unique and different from years past. Due to the May Primary Elections and several retirements, there are also several open committee chairmanships in both the House and Senate. There are many unknowns throughout the summer and there is plenty of gossip, but the work continues, and we will be ready when the dust from the November General Elections settles, and we look towards a 2023 Inaugural and a new legislature coming into session in January.

Until then, we will continue to be attentive and actively work on policy, budgets, rules and with agencies and policy makers on your behalf. We will consistently be meeting with legislators, the Governor's staff, and agency heads to advance your priorities and look for additional opportunities to partner with the state. We welcome the opportunities for you to join us and to build and maintain your own working relationships with them as well.

All bills from the 2022 Idaho legislative session can be found <u>HERE</u>. All bills that past, are now enacted. Rules being considered can be found <u>HERE</u>. Please reach out to us with any questions and we look forward to meeting with you soon. Have a safe and wonderful Independence Day.