



### **Week Three Idaho Legislative Update for January 23 – January 27, 2023**

The third week of the Sixty-Seventh Idaho Legislature's First Regular Session brought an increase in committee meetings, resulting in many bills quickly being introduced by legislators. While budget presentations continue in JFAC, there is still no plan for how that committee will vote on spending due to Speaker Mike Moyle's demand for more control of the budget process and splitting the House and Senate to vote separately. This issue has created a logjam for supplementals that are now stuck in a politically motivated power struggle that is preventing the process from taking place. It is a rare departure from Idaho's normally streamlined process and prevents the legislature from using its most influential option of controlling the "power of the purse". The resulting pressure as well as the political theater and drama has created a new nickname for the Speaker of the House, "King Moyle". Time will tell if he truly rules the Idaho legislative kingdom.

House Majority Leader Megan Blanksma also introduced [HB 24](#). The "Idaho Launch" program bill is for in-demand careers, granting Idaho students \$8,500.00 or more to use on education and certification training for the most needed careers in Idaho. This would help bolster filling positions for nurses, linemen, welders, truck drivers, cybersecurity, and so many more industries that have been searching for relief. We expect to see a hearing in the House Education Committee next week and are actively working to support the Governor's team and House Leadership on this important bill.

The Idaho Broadband Advisory Board also met this week and voted unanimously to allocate state funding to two projects. Proposals submitted by the Port of Lewiston and the Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON) received a combined total of \$27 million to build open access middle mile broadband that will connect the states desperately needed north-south routes from Moscow to Star. This critical infrastructure will enable the state to finally have reliable affordable access to broadband and ensure Idahoans can get and stay connected through a variety of options. It also ensures a massive amount of federal funds the state will receive, that can be bolstered to use for the unserved and underserved areas throughout Idaho. While many other great projects were not funded in this meeting, the board committed to continue working to strategically use the funding to support projects going forward.

The House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees also began to review the Medicaid budget. A joint committee was held to hear from the Administrator of the Division of Medicaid, Juliet Charron. Numerous members of the budget committee and the policy committees are looking at the costs associated with the state administering the Medicaid program. Legislators are seeking a way to navigate the trajectory of this costly program as they piece together many other budgets. The Committees will be required to present a letter to JFAC by January 31, 2023, determining their recommendation for the budget.

This week also rounded out the traditional starting phase of session. Many of the committees have continued their diligent work of reviewing and approving appointments, rules, and fee rules while also introducing bills. With the increase in committee hearings and more bills to be considered, the Legislature will move away from personal bills, that traditionally don't move forward, and the House and Senate will now begin the formal policy-making process. The Senate Personal Bill Deadline was last Friday, and the House Personal Bill Deadline is today. We are tracking personal bills, but unless they get a hearing, we will use our time and resources on your behalf elsewhere. Starting next week, we will see more matter of fact, substantive bills that will be able to move past the RS introductory hearing stage and take the time to be considered by committees in full hearings.

Taxes, transportation, education, housing, workforce issues, law and order, healthcare, and many other funding and policy discussions are heating up and we expect to see many bills introduced in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for continued updates and don't hesitate to reach out if you need anything or have any questions.

All bills from the 2023 Idaho Legislative Session are on the [Idaho State Legislative Website](#). The Governor's Budget Recommendation Highlights can be found [HERE](#). The JFAC Budget Hearing schedule can be found [HERE](#).



### **[HB 26 - Relating to Children's Mental Health Services and Medicaid](#) - House Health and Welfare**

The purpose of this legislation is to amend Section 16-2428, Idaho Code, regarding confidentiality and disclosure of information records. It seeks to clarify Idaho Code in the chance of a parent or guardian to appeal or deny Medicaid or insurance coverage. It would add the word Medicaid and the phrase "to carry out the treatment plan."

**Sponsor: Rep. Erickson (R-33)**

### **[SB 1020 - Relating State Health Insurance](#) – Senate Commerce and Human Resources**

This legislation would add a representative from an Idaho school district to the Group Insurance Advisory Committee. States that the advisory committee shall include one (1) active employee, one (1) retired employee, and one (1) representative from an Idaho school district. Outlines how personnel employed after June 30, 2009, shall not be eligible for any retired personnel health care service coverage unless they match certain qualifications.

### **[HB 32 - Disclosing Deposit and Transaction Information to the Federal IRS](#) – House Business**

Prohibits banks and other financial institutions chartered under state law from sharing deposit and withdrawal transaction information with the IRS. This would apply to any account held at a state-chartered financial institution. There is an exception for preexisting state or federal law. Also outlines various situations where the disclosure of confidential information is permitted.

**Sponsor: Petzke (R-21)**

## **Appropriations and Budgets**

As appropriations that are of interest to you start arising, they will appear under this section.

## **Rules**

[HERE](#) is the link for the Index of all Pending Rules seeking legislative approval. Committees in both the House and Senate are assigned rules to approve. As a reminder, if a rules docket passes either House or the Senate, they are set to go into effect but need to be enacted by legislation or executive order. Once a pending rule is approved, a (+) symbol will appear in front of the docket number. If a pending rule is not approved by the Legislature a (-) will appear in front of the docket number.

### **[IDAPA 18 – DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE](#)**

(+) [18-0701-2201](#) - Acquiring Control, Insurance Holding Company Systems and Mutual Insurance Holding Companies (ZBR)

(+) (+) [18-0702-2201](#) - Reserve Liabilities and Minimum Valuations for Annuities and Pure Endowment Contracts – (ZBR Chapter Rewrite)

(+) (+) [18-0703-2201](#) - Valuation of Life Insurance Policies Including the Use of Select Mortality Factors (ZBR Chapter Rewrite)

(+) [18-0708-2201](#) - Property and Casualty Actuarial Opinion Rule – (ZBR Chapter Rewrite)

### **[IDAPA 16 – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE](#)**

[16-0309-2201](#) - Medicaid Basic Plan Benefits – (Pending Rule)

[16-0317-2201](#) - Medicare/Medicaid Coordinated Plan Benefits - (ZBR)

### **[IDAPA 59 – PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF IDAHO \(PERSI\)](#)**

[59-0101-2201](#) - Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) – (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking)



Appointments approved by Senate Committees, are confirmed by the full Senate.

- Rod Higgins was confirmed by the Senate to the State Insurance Fund Board on January 24, 2023.
- Terry Gestrin was confirmed by the Senate to the State Insurance Fund Board on January 24, 2023.