



Week One Idaho Legislative Update for January 8 – January 12, 2024

On Monday, Governor Brad Little kicked off the State of the State Address and Budget Address marking the start of the 2024 Idaho Legislative Session. Governor Little started off the speech by stating we can always make Idaho better and make it the place where all future generations return. Idaho is leading the charge on cutting red tape, tax cuts year after year, and education freedom policies. Governor Little reviewed huge successes including income and property tax relief, Idaho Launch grants, and infrastructure investments.

Throughout his speech Governor Little referred to his initiative for the year: *Idaho Works*. Governor Little called out transportation funding, the quagga mussel outbreak, human trafficking, fentanyl, suicide prevention, school facilities - a \$2 billion long-term investment, and a fiscally responsible budget. The Governor's proposed budget is set at \$200 million less than the previous fiscal year as well. To read Governor Little's full 2024 State of the State Address, click [HERE](#). To see Governor Little's *Idaho Works* Plan FY 2025 Budget Highlights, click [HERE](#).

In the first week of the Sixty-Seventh Idaho Legislature's Second Regular Session, legislators were quick to get their feet under them. Many swiftly got to work, introducing legislation, and bolstering support for their ideas. While some have been waiting to test the waters, a majority of legislators new and old dove headfirst into the work of session.

The House took full advantage of the first week to introduce legislation, specifically House State Affairs and Judiciary & Rules Committees. We saw many political statements and social issues arise, just like in past years. The Senate has one (1) more week to introduce personal bills, and the House has two (2) weeks. As a reminder, personal bills do not go through the normal process. They are not granted hearings in a committee and often are simply read across the desk and filed away. Legislators who introduce them know they won't move forward but choose to introduce them anyway as a means of getting a conversation started or creating awareness for an issue by giving it a bill number. These will not appear on reports, unless there is a rare instance that one that gains traction, in which case, we ensure you are aware of it.

The Joint Finance Appropriations Committee (JFAC) began to look at the state's budget for FY25. JFAC will begin hearing budget presentations and then be setting the budget of those presented within two (2) weeks of the hearing. This process will be repeated until all budgets have been set. Starting Monday, January 15, 2024, statewide budgets, and maintenance budgets will be set. The Co-Chairs have been clear, their goal is to pass as many maintenance budgets as possible to only focus on the greatest needs of the state. Although Governor Little's budget is set to be fiscally conservative, the Co-Chairs are looking far beyond these savings to make room for Speaker Mike Moyle's income tax cut and school vouchers. We are seeing the JFAC Co-Chairs operate in a very deliberate way, as their minds seem to be made up before any presentations even begin.

JFAC has set its schedule to set all budgets within nine (9) weeks but has left room in week ten (10) to set and reset appropriations as needed. We highly anticipate this will be the case. [HERE](#) is the most updated schedule for JFAC budget hearings and settings. Every Friday, an update of the General Fund will be given, and the Committee will set budgets from the presentations heard that week.

Many legislators are hopeful to be done with their work by the anticipated Sine Die date, March 22nd; however, others seem to have this optimism dwindle by the hour. Only time will tell how motivated the Legislature is to start campaigning for the May Primary. Next week will be more eventful as the session starts to pick up the pace with rules, budget hearings, and plenty of legislation introduced starting many of the big policy fights of the session.

All bills from the 2024 Idaho Legislative Session are on the [Idaho State Legislative Website](#). To find your legislators, click [HERE](#). To view daily reading calendars and agendas, click [HERE](#).



HB 383– Medical Liens – House Health and Welfare Committee

This bill outlines the process for patients with and without a third-party payer. For those without a third-party payer, a lien must be filed before or within ninety (90) days after the date of discharge or the last of services provided, whichever is later. For those with a third-party payer, a lien must be filed only during the first thirty (30) days of an extraordinary collection action. Outlines that a provider authorized to file a lien to secure payment must do so according to the timelines and provisions of Chapter 7, Title 45 Idaho Code.

Sponsor: Rep Skaug (R-10)

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 the 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 16 – Department of Health and Welfare

16-0305-2301 – Eligibility for Aid to the Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ZBR)

16-0306-2301 – Refugee Medical Assistance

16-0309-2301 – Medicaid Basic Plan Benefits

16-0310-2101 – Medicaid Enhanced Plan Benefits

16-0313-2101 – Consumer Directed Services

16-0318-2301 – Medicaid Cost-Sharing (ZBR, Fee Rule)

IDAPA 18 – Department of Insurance

18-0404-2301 – The Managed Care Reform Act Rule (ZBR)

18-0602-2301 – Producers Handling Fiduciary Funds (ZBR)

18-0603-2301 – Rules Governing Disclosure Requirements for Insurance Providers When Charging Fees (ZBR Chapter Repeal)

18-0706-2301 – Rules Governing Life and Health Reinsurance Agreements (ZBR)

18-0710-2301 – Corporate Governance Annual Disclosure (ZBR)