



Week Thirteen Idaho Legislative Update for March 31 – April 4, 2025

After more than three intense months, the first regular session of the Sixty-Eighth Idaho Legislature crossed the finish line on its 89th day. The House adjourned Sine Die Friday at 3:46 p.m. The Senate followed suit at 4:40 p.m.

As many of you already know, week 13 was a whirlwind. The House and Senate worked long hours, with multiple floor sessions stretching past the dinner hour and deep into the evening. The overtime work was necessary to reach agreement on multiple appropriations bills and policy initiatives deemed too essential by leadership to leave for next year. The Governor and his staff also kept pace, and by Thursday had signed and cleared his desk of all pending bills, giving the Legislature the greenlight to adjourn and get out of town Friday.

This week, the House and Senate endorsed all the remaining budgets, including those the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee was forced to retool multiple times. Budgets for transportation, environmental quality, fish and game, and the state liquor division, as well as education, health and welfare and other last-minute items were finally approved. Most of the budgets revised this week were trimmed significantly to match the more than \$400 million in tax cuts approved earlier in the session. There was also a determined and coordinated effort among the new and growing bloc of fiscal conservatives to cut costs and shrink the size and scope of government, which led to budgets being rejected by one chamber or another and returned to budget writers for additional trimming. Ultimately, the Legislature met its constitutional mandate to fund the government with a budget that has a surplus and a hefty rainy day fund in case of a downturn in the economy.

The last of the committee work wrapped up Friday morning. Of the final going home bills, Senate State Affairs narrowly rejected a bill to revamp elections for the Ada County Highway District commissioners, while members of House State Affairs made last-minute amendments to Medical Freedom legislation vetoed by the Governor earlier in the week.

In the final days, lawmakers approved legislation authorizing the over-the-counter sale of Ivermectin. Another bill bringing massive revisions and complications to the state's urban renewal code advance despite massive opposition. The Governor put his signature on legislation making child sex offenders eligible for the death penalty.

With the session now in the books, we want to say "thank you" for your patience and trust these last few weeks. Each session brings its own unique and diverse set of challenges, and this one didn't disappoint. The dynamics at times were harsh. Pressure from an even more conservative mandate forged during last fall's election reset expectations and ultimately results. This Legislature's drive to cut spending and rein in government was evident not just in the budgetary process, but also in policies aimed at rolling back Medicaid and diversity and equity initiatives in schools and universities.

Still, our team is positive and eager to begin looking ahead and mapping out strategy this offseason to ensure we're all in the best possible posture for next January. After a short break to spend time with family and friends, we will return to the office mid-week next week to connect and renew our focus on serving you and advancing your goals.

We are grateful for our relationship and the opportunity to represent you in the Idaho Legislature, and it's important to know that many in state government, whether they agreed with us or not, kept their doors open to our team. The fact lawmakers continue to be willing to meet and keep an open mind is what makes our business in the statehouse so special. Relationships, trust, and honesty matter more now than ever. We pride ourselves on this. Happy Sine Die 2025.

All bills for the 2025 session can be found on the [Idaho State Legislative website](#). Interested in finding your legislator? Visit [HERE](#). Daily reading calendars and agendas are found [HERE](#). As usual, we're available if you have questions.



Policies

[HB 135](#) – Illegal Aliens Health, Social Benefits – Signed into Law

Amends Idaho Code to remove certain non-emergency health care benefits and social benefits for illegal aliens residing in Idaho. The bill would not require verification of lawful presence in Idaho for emergency health care, short-term non-cash disaster relief, or programs at short-term shelters. Also further defines lawful presence in Idaho.

Sponsor: Rep. Redman (R-3)

[HB 136aaS](#) – Transparency in Drug Pricing Program – Signed into Law

Adds new section to Idaho Code to establish provisions related to the 340B drug pricing program. Defines 340B covered programs and sets criteria for those programs to report before April 1 of each year to DHW, Attorney General and State Controller.

Sponsor: Rep. Redman (R-3)

[HB 345](#)- Managed Care Medicaid – Signed into Law

[HB 14](#) - Idaho Code Cleanup Act – Signed into Law

[HB 31](#) - Medicaid Payer of Last Resort – Signed into Law

[HB 38](#) - Idaho Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act – Signed into Law

[HB 62](#) – Medicaid Fraud & Tax Commission – Signed into Law

[HB 71](#) - Uniform Standards-Insurance – Signed into Law

[HB 116](#) - Small Employer Carrier Insurance Repeal – Signed into Law

[HB 90](#) – Public Assistance, Legislative Action – Signed into Law

[HB 134](#) – Breast Cancer Screening – Signed into Law

Appropriations and Budgets

[S 1194](#) - Department of Health & Welfare, Public Health Services FY26 Enhancement – Passed the Senate (22-13-0) – Passed the House (44-24-2) – Sent to the Governor

Includes the restoration of funding for several programs in the division that include Suicide Prevention, Drug Overdose Prevention, WIC Food Program, Alzheimer's and Dementia programs, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and partial funding for the Hepatitis C and HIV Prevention programs; funding for the continuation of several ARPA programs; funding for the fourth year of communicable disease prevention grant funding; new funding for the Immunization Assessment Fund and changes \$19M of ongoing funding to onetime funding; additional appropriation for revenue generated in the Vital Records Bureau; new funding for the Home Visiting Program and changes \$3.5M of ongoing funding to onetime funding for the program; and funding for the Rural Nursing Loan Repayment Program for years 3-5 of the program totaling \$27.7M.

Sponsors: Rep. Manwaring (R-29) Sen. Woodward (R-1)



[S 1201](#) – Department of Health & Welfare, Division of Medicaid FY26 Enhancement – Passed the Senate (22-13-0) – Passed the House (40-30) – Sent to the Governor

includes appropriations for the Hospital Assessment Fund, the federally required Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) surveys, expenses for the Adult Developmental Disabilities Resource Allocation model required by court order, actuary contract amendments, the federally required External Quality Review contract for Managed Care Organizations, year four of the MMIS procurement process, and population forecast adjustments. This bill also provides the appropriation to move Extended Employment Services from Services for the Developmentally Disabled to the Division of Medicaid as part of the department's overall reorganization totaling \$674M.

Sponsors: Sen Bjerke (R-5), Rep. Furniss (R-31)

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, the rules docket needs to pass both the House and 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.

Department of Health and Welfare

(+) (+) [16-0309-2401](#) – Medicaid Basic Plan Benefits (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) – Proposed Rule

Appointments

On January 20, 2025, Alex Adams was confirmed by the Senate as the Director for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

On January 23, 2025, Steve Landon was confirmed by the Senate to the State Insurance Fund Board

On February 5, 2025, Tara Malek was confirmed by the Senate to the Idaho Health Insurance Exchange Board