



Idaho 2024 Legislative Session Overview

After 94 days in session the 67th Idaho Legislature officially adjourned Sine Die on Wednesday, April 10th, 2024. We started off with a quick pace and a lot of bill introductions this year. Of the 979 pieces of legislation drafted, 636 were introduced, and 336 bills passed both bodies – only 2 were vetoed by Governor Little with one failed attempt to override a veto.

The 2024 Legislative Session officially convened on Monday, January 8th with Governor Little delivering his State of the State Address. Notably, Governor Little introduced his Idaho Works plan. Key policy and budget priorities from Idaho Works include bolstering public education and local school facility needs, funding for Idaho Launch, transportation, water, and public safety.

Workforce Development

Following the passage of the Launch program last session, the program has seen more than 13,500 graduating seniors from the class of 2024 applying for funding. Idaho Launch provides graduating seniors with grants for education and training programs for in-demand careers. Going into the 2024 legislative session, some legislators still had concerns with the Launch program, and it took some time for the budget bill to move through the House and Senate. Despite those concerns, the budget for the Workforce Development Council, where the Launch line item resides, passed both bodies. That bill appropriates nearly \$80 million for Launch grants. Governor Little signed this bill into law on April 8th.

Taxes and School Facilities- [House Bill 521](#), one of Governor Little's priority bills this session, dedicates \$125 million in ongoing sales tax revenue to the new School Modernization Facilities Fund for bonding. It gives school districts access to up to \$1.5 billion over the next ten years to address school facility needs, distributed to districts on a pupil population formula. Additionally, the bill increases the School District Facility Fund by increasing the percentage of sales tax revenue directed to the fund from 2.25 to 3.25 percent which is expected to be \$50 million in FY2025. Lastly, this legislation reduces Idaho's flat income tax rate for both individuals and corporations from 5.8% to 5.695%.

Employment

Several bills aimed at refining unemployment benefit guidelines were introduced this year. Ultimately, only two made it through the process. Governor Little signed [HB428](#) into law, reducing unemployment insurance taxes by another 20%. The bill adjusts the

unemployment insurance's desired fund size multiplier from 1.3 to 1.2 which in turn will save Idaho businesses \$44 Million this year and \$117 million over the next five years. Rate notices reflecting the reduction were issued by the Idaho Department of Labor in March.

The IHBA was directly involved in supporting, opposing, or monitoring over 20 pieces of legislation in the 2024 Legislative session that would have impact on our industry. The 2024 legislative session might best be defined by what did NOT happen as opposed to what did get passed. We will necessarily have to work on a couple policy issues through the interim in preparation for the 2025 legislative session. Chief among these issues: HOA legislation, domestic water well regulation, and electrical code rules.

OFFENSE

School Facilities Funding -- supported legislation that funds well over a billion dollars in school facilities construction across Idaho over the next ten years.

Unemployment Insurance Multiplier Reduction – Supported legislation that reduced the fund multiplier from 1.3 to 1.2, cutting rates paid by employers by up to 35 percent.

City Area of Impact reform – helped craft and supported legislation to more clearly define relationship/responsibilities of cities and counties in defining city areas of impact.

DEFENSE

Homeowner Associations – Stopped a bill that would require developer-run HOAs to turn over control to homeowners after 75 percent of lots are sold, among other things.

Domestic Well regulation – stopped a bill that would require domestic water wells to be regulated by Idaho Department of Water Resources, would have required any subdivision of 10 or more lots to have common/community water source.

Impact fees for Recreation Districts – stopped a bill in committee to allow recreation districts ability to impose developer impact fees.

Impact Fees for School Facilities – stopped a bill to allow school districts the ability to collect Development impact fees.

Seasonal Unemployment Benefits – Killed a bill in committee that would have drastically reduced unemployment eligibility for seasonal workers.

Elections

All 105 seats in the Idaho Legislature and both US Representatives are up for election this year. The Primary election is on May 21, and General election is November 5, 2024.

Some interesting trends from the election filings:

- Of the 105 sitting legislators, 100 of them have filed to run for re-election. This is a far higher percentage than recent election cycles.
- Of the 87 sitting Republicans running for re-election, 57 of them have Republican Primary opponents. This is an effect of the current intra-party battles between the “establishment” members and the “hard-liners” efforts to gain greater control of the Party and the Legislature.
- The Democratic Party has fielded candidates in 81 of the Legislative districts. This a significant increase from 45 in the 2022 election cycle.

Known retirements include Senator Abby Lee (R-Fruitland), Representative Mike Kinglsey (R-Lewiston), Representative Sage Dixon (R-Ponderay), Representative Lauren Necochea (D-Boise), Representative Chris Allgood (R- Caldwell) and Representative Colin Nash (D-Boise). Additionally, Representative Sue Chew (D-Boise) announced her retirement in Fall 2023.

Advocacy is a fundamental pillar of the Idaho Home Builders Association mission. If you or someone at your company is interested in getting involved or has questions, please reach out any time.

Thanks Much,



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