



# 8th Legislative Update

March 7, 2008

## Legislative Links

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Idaho State Legislature  
2008 Legislative Session

## JFAC supports Head Start Funding

Congratulations to the Idaho Head Start Association on securing future funding! According to Stan Burton, the IHSA Executive Director, "the Idaho Head Start Association was gratified to learn that the Joint Finance & Appropriations Committee (JFAC) of the Idaho Legislature saw fit to recommend the ongoing continuation of TANF funding for Head Starts' low-income children and families at the same levels as last year." JFAC made this recommendation during a meeting late last week. For more information on Idaho Head Start programs, contact Stan Burton at 345-1182 or visit the Idaho Head Start Association website, [www.idahoheadstartassoc.net](http://www.idahoheadstartassoc.net).

## Hearing held for Daycare Facilities bill

The Senate Health & Welfare Committee agreed to hold a hearing with no vote for [Senate Bill 1376 - Daycare Facilities](#) on Monday March 3rd. Sponsors Sen. Corder and Rep. Sayler presented the bill, after which Michelle Britton from the Dept. of Health & Welfare provided information on fiscal impact and Karen Mason of Idaho AEYC gave testimony in support of the legislation. At the end of the hearing it was agreed that the bill will be brought back next year after working with local Health Districts to determine the fiscal impact. For more information on SB 1376, [click this link](#) to view the legislation or visit the Idaho AEYC website at [www.idahoaeyc.org](http://www.idahoaeyc.org).

## Grocery tax credit legislation moves quickly

Legislation to raise the income tax credit for grocery purchases was introduced late last week, and despite hours of debate, has been moving quickly through the legislative process. Yesterday members of the House voted 62-8 to pass [House Bill 588](#), which would incrementally increase the "Food Tax Credit" on state income taxes. This legislation also allows low-income individuals who do not have to file state income tax the ability to file for and receive this credit. [House Bill 588](#) now moves to the Senate. To review the legislation and list of sponsors, scroll down and click [H0588](#) in the "New This Week" section of our legislative tracking report.

**We will continue to track legislation and keep you informed of proposals that may affect Idaho's children. To view a list of our policy priorities for the 2008 legislative session, visit our website at <http://www.idahovoices.org/policy/policy.htm>.**

## Legislative Tracking

\* = Sponsors are listed at the end of legislation. To view sponsors, click on the link to the legislation, then click on "View Statement of Purpose / Fiscal Impact".

### New This Week

<p><a href="#">H0588</a> Multiple Sponsors*</p>	<p><b>Income tax, grocery credit</b> - addresses the inadequacies of the current law, by incrementally increasing the "Food Tax Credit", starting with an increase to \$50 for the poorest Idahoans, \$30 for all other Idahoans, and an additional \$20 for seniors, for tax year 2008. The credit continues to increase each tax year by \$10 until reaching \$100, eventually offsetting, on average, the state sales tax on qualified foods.</p>	<p>House PASSED</p>
<p><a href="#">HCR055</a> Sponsor: Rep. Henbest</p>	<p><b>Public schools/food vending machines</b> - States findings of the Legislature and urges the State Department of Education to adopt certain nutritional values for food sold in vending machines in public schools; urges the department to prohibit the sale of foods of minimal nutritional value in public schools.</p>	<p>House 2nd Reading</p>

<b>Child Health</b>		
<b>H0396</b> Sponsor: Aylee Schaefer, State Board of Education	<b>Schools, children, vision screening</b> - implements a structure to offer training to vision screeners, screen children at consistent intervals, and screen children across the state of Idaho.	House Education Committee
<b>H0513</b> Sponsor: Rep. Henbest	<b>Access to health insurance</b> - Provides for increased availability of premium assistance to individuals, small businesses, and large businesses. Also tasks the Department of Health and Welfare to conduct program outreach and marketing.	House Health & Welfare Committee
<b>HCR043</b> Sponsors: Sen. McGee, Rep. Bilbao	<b>Concurrent Resolution Recognizing the Importance of Children's Health</b> - reaffirms that children are one of Idaho's most important assets and declares that children should have access to high-quality, comprehensive, affordable primary and preventive health care services. Indicates that with access to health care for children there would likely be less reliance upon more expensive types of health care services such as emergency rooms, which pass the costs for treating uninsured children onto other consumers and overall communities. Makes clear parents are responsible to provide for their children's health and dental care but sometimes have trouble accessing affordable care.	Held in the House Health & Welfare Committee on a 7-5 vote  AYES - Block, Bilbao, Rusche, Chew, Burgogne (Acting Rep., Dist. 16)  NAYS - Nielsen, McGeachin, Lorterscher, Shepherd (8), Marriott, Luker, Thayne
<b>S1394</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>Insurance, dependent, age</b> - In 2007, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1105 to raise the dependent age that children could remain on their parents' health insurance policy. Inadvertently, large group, government entities, fraternal societies, public service corporations and self-funded plans were excluded. This legislation rectifies that oversight.	Senate PASSED; House Business Committee
<b>S1443</b> Sponsors: Sen. Werk, Sen. Broadsword, Rep. Henbest	<b>Schools, pupils, medication</b> - allows for the self-administration and possession of an epinephrin Auto-Injector by K-12 students.	Senate PASSED; House Education Committee
<b>Safety</b>		
<b>H0462</b> Sponsors: Sen Broadsword, Rep. Ringo	<b>Child safety restraints required, when</b> - provides that there shall be no exceptions to the law requiring all children six years of age or younger to be properly secured in a child safety restraint.	House Transportation & Defense Committee
<b>H0499</b> Sponsor: Dean Sangrey, Dept. of Parks & Recreation	<b>Boat/personal watercraft, operation</b> - establishes mandatory boating safety education for operators 14 years of age and younger.	Held in the House Resources & Conservation Committee on a 15-3 vote
<b>H0511</b> Sponsors: Rep. Matthews, Rep. Henbest	<b>Child mortality prevention team</b> - establishes a statewide multidisciplinary, multiagency Child Mortality Prevention Team to aid in the prevention of child deaths through the examination of relevant records.	House Gen. Order
<b>S1361a</b> Sponsors: Sen. Goedde, Sen. McGee	<b>Speed limit, school zones</b> - provides for reduced speed limits in school zones; requires certain information on a school zone sign; and specifies a fixed penalty for exceeding the posted speed limit in a school zone.	Senate PASSED; House Transportation & Defense Committee
<b>S1376</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>Daycare facilities</b> - revises and extends the state's licensing requirements for child care providers. Extends licensing to all providers who receive compensation and care for four or more children, with current exceptions maintained.	Senate Health & Welfare Committee
<b>Child Welfare</b>		
<b>H0382a</b> Sponsors: Rep. Clark, Sen. Darrington	<b>Sex offender, no access/school child</b> - clarifies restrictions on adult criminal sex offenders' access to children in school buildings, on school grounds and properties used by a school.	House PASSED; Sent to Senate 14th Order for amendment
<b>H0444</b> Sponsor: Rep. Patrick	<b>School district contractor/criminal history</b> - clarifies the requirements of school contractors to have background checks for employees in direct contact with school children.	House Education Committee
<b>H0566</b> Sponsors: Rep. Patrick; Christina Linder, State Dept. of Education	<b>School Employees/Criminal history checks</b> - addresses several gaps in the fingerprinting and background check system; includes requiring background checks for student teachers, independent contractors and their employees, and other individuals who have unsupervised contact with students in a public school setting.	House PASSED
<b>HJM007</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>Internet pornography/access stopped</b> - urges the United States Congress to take action to help stop children and employees from accessing Internet pornography.	House PASSED; Senate State Affairs Committee

<b>Child Welfare (continued)</b>		
<b>S1263</b> Sponsors: Sen. Davis, Dale Higer	<b>Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act</b> - provides courts with guidelines to follow during custody disputes and divorce proceedings, helps courts identify families at risk for abduction, and provides methods to prevent the abduction of children.	Senate PASSED House Judiciary, Rules & Administration Committee
<b>Education</b>		
<b>H0503</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>Key to the Future Scholarships</b> - provides eligibility criteria for Key to the Future Scholarships for students; provides that Key to the Future students shall remain drug, alcohol and tobacco free.	House PASSED; Senate Education Committee
<b>H0551</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>School age revised</b> - Will allow any child who is five years of age and who has completed private kindergarten in this state or another state, or public out-of-state kindergarten, but has not reached the "school age" requirement in Idaho the opportunity to enter the first grade.	House Education Committee
<b>S1404</b> Multiple Sponsors*	<b>School age, revised</b> - provides that children of four years or older may attend prekindergarten in the public schools and provides that Idaho public schools may offer prekindergarten programs if a majority of voters approve such a program in an election and provides that the voters may approve a levy to pay for the program.	Sent to Senate 14th Order for amendment
<b>S1406</b> Sponsors: Sen. Burkett, Sen. Bastian, Sen. Corder	<b>Early childhood development/education</b> - establishes a voluntary pre-kindergarten program for children 4 years of age. Local pre-K councils appointed by the district superintendent may plan and develop a high quality pre-K program for the community. Pre-K education is to be provided by qualified pre-K educators and in compliance with state pre-kindergarten learning standards.	Senate Education Committee
<b>S1409</b> Sponsor: Sen. Sagness	<b>Alternative educ, support units</b> - addresses the intensifying needs of Idaho school districts to provide alternative education programs for at-risk students in grades K-6.	Senate FAILED Floor Vote: 14 - 19; 2 Absent & Excused
<b>SCR122</b> Sponsor: Sen. Keough	<b>School funding formula, study</b> - authorizes the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee to direct the Office of Performance Evaluations to conduct a study of Idaho's kindergarten through grade 12 public education funding formula in order to identify & evaluate issues relating to the adequacy of K-12 public education funding.	Senate State Affairs Committee
<b>SCR123</b> Sponsors: Sen. Schroeder, Rep. Trail	<b>International education, supported</b> - States legislative findings and supports specified international education.	Senate Education Committee
<b>Family Economic Security</b>		
<b>H0509</b> Sponsors: Rep. Chew, Rep. Henbest	<b>Idaho Prescription Drug Program</b> - provides those uninsured and underinsured with rates not available to them but available to those in group plans to purchase medications.	House Health & Welfare Committee
<b>H0521</b> Sponsor: Rep. Henbest	<b>Health insurance premium increases</b> - provides that all insurance policies providing coverage to Idaho residents will include a provision in their policies that keeps the annual maximum amount of a premium increase to no more than the rate of medical inflation.	House Business Committee
<b>H0548</b> Sponsor: Liza Carberry, Investment Manager, State Treasurer's Office	<b>College Savings Program, revised</b> - New language will allow the Board to authorize minors to open accounts, which will encourage young people to save for their own education.	House PASSED
<b>S1343</b> Sponsor: Kandee Yearsley, Health & Welfare	<b>Child support, insurance, costs</b> - adopt the federal reasonable cost definition regarding the cost of health insurance or cash medical support as ordered in a medical child support order.	Senate PASSED; House Health & Welfare Committee



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This legislative update has been sent to all *Idaho Voices for Children* members. If you have questions or wish to remove your name from this mailing list, email Sara Herring at [sara@idahovoices.org](mailto:sara@idahovoices.org) or call 208. 336. 5533 x 233

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