



10th Legislative Update

April 7, 2008

Legislative Links

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Idaho State Legislature
2008 Legislative Session

And they're finished!

The 2008 Legislative Session came to an end on Wednesday, April 2nd as lawmakers finalized legislation and said their goodbyes. Since the Governor has 10 business days from *sine die* (final adjournment) to decide whether he'll sign or veto legislation or allow it to become law without his signature, we'll have to wait a little longer for a complete end-of-session report. We should have that out to you by the end of April.

In Idaho News

Day Care Neglected - Spokesman Review, 03/27/08

A last-ditch effort to blast a day-care-regulation bill out of an Idaho Senate committee fell short Tuesday, so the issue is dead for the fourth consecutive year. Buttressed by support from working parents around the state, sponsors were seeking minimal standards for day care centers with four or more children, including criminal background checks for workers and annual health and fire inspections. Currently, only those centers with more than seven children are regulated by the state.

Senate Health and Welfare Committee Chairwoman Patti Anne Lodge, R-Huston, said the bill needed more work. For one thing, she said, the fiscal note was inaccurate. "This bill needs to stay where it is in committee for this year, and give the sponsors the opportunity to work on it so that it is what it says it is." It's always something. In the three previous years, the bill was also nipped to death. [LINK TO FULL STORY](#)

Citing threat to parents' rights, senator blocks bill on child deaths - Spokesman Review, 03/27/08

A Senate committee chairwoman has blocked legislation that would have ended Idaho's distinction as the only state in the nation with no system for reviewing child deaths. Senate Health and Welfare Chairwoman Patti Anne Lodge, R-Huston, said Idaho doesn't need to review child deaths if every other state is already doing it. "We can use the information that they've gathered," she said. "If they're already doing it, what could be different in a child death in Utah or Montana that we wouldn't have here? Why reinvent the wheel all the time?"

House Bill 511 passed the House on March 17 on a 63-5 vote, and it cleared Lodge's committee on a voice vote after a public hearing. But Lodge then asked the Senate to return the bill to her committee, where it's now dead. "The concerns mostly were, what could this lead to?" she said. "Could this lead to maybe more usurping of freedoms? Could parents be charged?" [LINK TO FULL STORY](#)

In Memoriam: Bob West

"He was an educational icon. I've seldom met anyone with his intellect and the (ability to) be so compassionate about people. He could quote Idaho law right off the top of his head. **He was short in stature and huge in nature.** He could command a room just by walking in." - Bill Marineau, principal of West Park Elementary School in Moscow, as quoted by the Moscow-Pullman Daily News, March 20, 2008.

Idaho lost a giant advocate for children on Sunday, March 16, when Bob West passed away at his mountain retreat in Cascade. Bob served on the Board of Directors for Idaho Voices for Children and was known as the "go to" guy for facts, policy, and legislation, especially when the subject was education. We'll all miss Bob's good humor and wisdom. [FULL TRIBUTE TO BOB ON IVC HOMEPAGE](#)

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".

H = House bill

S = Senate bill

aa = as amended in the house of origin

aaH = as amended in the House

aaS = as amended in the Senate

Child Health

<p>H0396 Sponsor: State Board of Education</p>	<p>Schools, children, vision screening - implements a structure to offer training to vision screeners, screen children at consistent intervals, and screen children across the state of Idaho.</p>	<p>House Education Committee No hearing held as of 3/25/08</p>
<p>H0513 Sponsor: Rep. Henbest</p>	<p>Access to health insurance - 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.</p>	<p>House Health & Welfare Committee No hearing held as of 3/20/08</p>
<p>HCR043 Sponsors: Sen. McGee, Rep. Bilbao</p>	<p>Concurrent Resolution Recognizing the Importance of Children's Health - 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.</p>	<p>Held in the House Health & Welfare Committee on a 7-5 vote</p> <p>AYES - Block, Bilbao, Rusche, Chew, Burgogne (Acting Rep., Dist. 16)</p> <p>NAYS - Nielsen, McGeachin, Lortscher, Shepherd (8), Marriott, Luker, Thayn</p>
<p>HCR055 Sponsor: Rep. Henbest</p>	<p>Public schools/food vending machines - urges the State Department of Education to adopt certain nutritional values for food sold in vending machines in public schools.</p>	<p>House ADOPTED; Defeated in Senate Education Committee by a 4-2 vote</p>
<p>S1394 Multiple Sponsors*</p>	<p>Insurance, dependent, age - 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.</p>	<p>Senate PASSED; House PASSED; Governor signed</p>
<p>S1443 Sponsors: Sen. Werk, Sen. Broadsword, Rep. Henbest</p>	<p>Schools, pupils, medication - allows for the self-administration and possession of an epinephrin Auto-Injector by K-12 students.</p>	<p>Senate PASSED; House PASSED; Governor signed</p>

Safety

<p>H0462 Sponsors: Sen Broadsword, Rep. Ringo</p>	<p>Child safety restraints required, when - 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.</p>	<p>House Transportation & Defense Committee No hearing held as of 3/26/08</p>
<p>H0499 Sponsor: Dept. of Parks & Recreation</p>	<p>Boat/personal watercraft, operation - establishes mandatory boating safety education for operators 14 years of age and younger.</p>	<p>Held in the House Resources & Conservation Committee on a 15-3 vote</p>
<p>H0511aa Sponsors: Rep. Matthews, Rep. Henbest</p>	<p>Child mortality prevention team - establishes a statewide multidisciplinary, multiagency Child Mortality Prevention Team to aid in the prevention of child deaths through the examination of relevant records.</p>	<p>House PASSED 63-5; Returned to Senate Health & Welfare Committee after Senate Floor Debate on 3/20/08 (per request of Sen. Lodge)</p>
<p>S1361aa,aaH Sponsors: Sen. Goedde, Sen. McGee</p>	<p>Speed limit, school zones - 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.</p>	<p>Senate PASSED as amended(aa); House amended, House PASSED (aaH); Senate concurs in House amendment; sent to Governor</p>
<p>S1376 Multiple Sponsors*</p>	<p>Daycare facilities - 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.</p>	<p>Held in Senate Health & Welfare Committee after hearing on 3/3/08 - no vote taken</p>

Child Welfare		
H0382aa,aaS Sponsors: Rep. Clark, Sen. Darrington	Sex offender, no access/school child - clarifies restrictions on adult criminal sex offenders' access to children in school buildings, on school grounds and properties used by a school.	House PASSED as amended (aa); Senate amended (aaS), Senate PASSED (aa,aaS); House concurs in Senate amendment; Governor signed
H0444 Sponsor: Rep. Patrick	School district contractor/criminal history - clarifies the requirements of school contractors to have background checks for employees in direct contact with school children.	House Education Committee No hearing as of 3/25/08
H0566aaS Sponsors: Rep. Patrick; State Dept. of Education	School Employees/Criminal history checks - 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; Senate amended (aaS), Senate PASSED; Governor signed
HJM007 Multiple Sponsors*	Internet pornography/access stopped - urges the United States Congress to take action to help stop children and employees from accessing Internet pornography.	ADOPTED
S1263 Sponsors: Sen. Davis, Dale Higer	Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act - 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 No hearing held as of 3/19/08
Education		
H0503 Multiple Sponsors*	Key to the Future Scholarships - 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; Defeated in Senate Education Committee on a 7-1 vote
H0551 Multiple Sponsors*	School age revised - 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 No hearing held as of 3/25/08
S1404aa <i>note - amendment changed original intent of bill</i> Multiple Sponsors*	School age, revised - Amends existing law relating to education to revise provisions relating to school age for purposes of enrolling in first grade	Left "hanging" on the amending order in the Senate
S1406 Sponsors: Sen. Burkett, Sen. Bastian, Sen. Corder	Early childhood development/education - 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.	Held in Senate Education Committee at Sen. Burkett's request - will be reviewed during the interim
S1409 Sponsor: Sen. Sagness	Alternative educ, support units - 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
SCR122 Sponsor: Sen. Keough	School funding formula, study - 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 No hearing held
SCR134 Sponsor: Sen. Burkett	International education, supported - States legislative findings and supports specified international education.	Senate ADOPTED; House FAILED Floor Vote: 30-32; 8 Absent & Excused

Family Economic Security

H0509 Sponsors: Rep. Chew, Rep. Henbest	Idaho Prescription Drug Program - 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 No hearing held as of 3/20/08
H0521 Sponsor: Rep. Henbest	Health insurance premium increases - 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 No hearing held as of 3/25/08
H0548 Sponsor: State Treasurer's Office	College Savings Program, revised - 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; Senate PASSED; Governor signed
H0588 Multiple Sponsors*	Income tax, grocery credit - 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.	House PASSED; Senate PASSED; Governor signed, Law effective 1/1/08
S1343 Sponsor: Health & Welfare	Child support, insurance, costs - 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 PASSED; Governor signed



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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 or call 208. 336. 5533 x 233

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