

# 2017



GREATER IDAHO FALLS  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## LEGISLATIVE WEEKLY UPDATE



Advocate • Educate • Network

January 19, 2017

### Bills of Interest

Watch for bill links as the 2017 Idaho Session continues.

### Quick Links

- [Idaho in Session](#)
- [Legislature Website](#)
- [Bill Center](#)
- [Governor's Office](#)
- [Idaho Statesman](#)
- [Congressional Delegation](#)
- [GIFCC 2016 Legislative Priorities](#)
- [Legislative Calendar](#)
- [Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry](#)

### Weekly Legislative Conference Call

Thursday, January 19th kicked off our first weekly legislative video conference call. The Chamber Advocacy Committee members were joined by Senate Pro Tempore Hill, Senators Davis, Mortimer and Harris, and Representatives Horman, Trujillo, Nate, and Loertscher. The Legislators shared short updates. As the session has just begun, there was a fair amount of discussion around the budget recommendations from the Governor's [State of the State Address](#), and our legislators' predictions for how issues and budget recommendations may shake out moving forward.

Rep. Tom Loertscher will introduce the first bill of the session, House Bill 1, on the floor on Thursday to provide the statute to implement the HRJ5 constitutional amendment. It will define the "in whole or in part" question from HJR5. Sen. Brent Hill reminded the group that "there is no budget surplus" from last year to allocate to projects. By statute, any surplus last year was split between transportation and savings. Senators Davis and Mortimer each spoke to the current CR draft to help fund two new INL Buildings in Idaho Falls, stating that there is strong interest in supporting INL and higher education systems; however, the current CR draft is "a good beginning but is woefully inadequate." They are especially looking to see more information on the higher education nexus and financing plan details. Under education, Sen. Mortimer called this a "Maintenance Year" where many previous issues will be revisited. Rep. Horman discussed the \$10M student funding shortfall from last year among other education budget issues. Other interesting topics included invasive mussel larvae concerns, impacts of recent Idaho Supreme Court rulings, Rev and Tax committee rules processes, and excitement in the House Energy committee hearing yesterday, when a testifier had to be escorted out by ISP.



### Chamber Days at the Legislature January 23 & 24, Boise

The Idaho Chamber Alliance brings together members and staff from more than 20 Idaho Chambers of Commerce, representing nearly 10,000 Idaho businesses to discuss legislative issues that have potential to affect the businesses and economies of our state. The Governor will address the group over breakfast to kick off the two-day forum. The Keynote Luncheon on Public Finance with Idaho Legislators address will be given by Greg Strimple from the GS Strategy Group. Annually as part of the event, the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Committee arranges a dinner for our regional legislators and our local chamber representatives attending the conference to meet and discuss local priorities and hear from our elected officials in a social setting. This year our Chamber has 13 members who will attend.

### News You Might Have Missed

- [New Growth Numbers Add \\$8.5 Million to K-12 Request](#) (IdEdNews.org)
- [Idaho House bill would remove fee for gasoline hybrid vehicles](#) (Idaho Statesman)
- [Idaho exchange's subsidies at risk under health care repeal](#) (Eye on Boise)

Make sure to join us Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. as we video conference call with our local legislators. These meetings are free and open to members. No need to RSVP. Meetings are held in room #581 of the Alexander D. Creek Building #5 on the campus of Eastern Idaho Technical College, 1600 South 25TH East, Idaho Falls.

Please contact the Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce at [ceo@idahofallschamber.com](mailto:ceo@idahofallschamber.com) to be added to the Advocacy Distribution List.



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