

# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE



February 14, 2025

## Idaho State Updates

The First Regular Session of the 68th Idaho legislature convened on January 6, 2025. Since convening, 254 bills in the House and 111 bills in the Senate have been introduced.

### New Legislation to Watch

Below are the newly introduced bills that the Idaho Dairymen's Association (IDA) is monitoring. Click on the hyperlink to view the full text of each bill on the Idaho Legislature website.

**H155 – Strategic Facilities:** This legislation creates a penalty for impeding and trespassing related to strategic facilities. The bill includes provisions for misdemeanor and felony charges based on the circumstances of the action. Misdemeanor impeding: For individuals who plead or are found guilty, sentencing may include up to six months in jail and a fine up to \$10,000. Felony impeding: For individuals who plead or are found guilty if damages are more than \$10,000, sentencing includes up to two years in a state penitentiary and a fine up to \$100,000 (not to exceed the damage or economic loss). Misdemeanor trespassing: For individuals who plead or are found guilty for the first time, sentencing may include up to six months in jail and a fine of up to \$1,000. Felony trespassing: For any person who pleads or is found guilty of trespassing for a second time within five years, it qualifies as a felony with a sentence of up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$20,000. A separate fine of up to \$100,000 exists for an individual or organization that solicits impeding or trespassing of strategic facilities. This legislation does not limit any activities protected under the U.S. or Idaho Constitutions. **IDA – SUPPORTS**

**H221 – Foreign Land Ownership:** This legislation expands on current code where foreign governments are prohibited from purchasing any Idaho forest land, in addition to the already prohibition in purchasing agricultural land, water rights, mining claims or mineral rights. Any foreign adversary is also under the same prohibitions, but under this legislation, the foreign adversary that owns any of these agricultural lands, mining claims or mineral rights must sell within 180 days of notice. If they do not sell, the land or mining claims or mineral rights will be sold by judicial foreclosure. Also, no foreign adversary may purchase or lease any property within the certain geographic boundaries to establish secure military operations areas. **IDA - SUPPORTS**

**S1086 – Landowner rules, trespass:** The purpose of this legislation is to clarify in Idaho Code that when the government or a landowner allows recreational use of land subject to terms or limitations, and gives notice of those terms, and a recreationist acts contrary to the terms of that permission, then the recreationist shall be considered in criminal trespass. The penalties shall be the same as those for criminal trespass. **IDA – SUPPORTS**

## Bill Analysis Highlights

### H155 – Strategic Facilities

- This bill strengthens protections against trespass or disruption of specific types of facilities that are vital to the security and way of living of all Idahoans.
- H155's prohibition against impeding or trespassing upon food and crop storage facilities will help ensure the security of stored dairy products and animal feed.
- It also provides enhanced protection against impeding or trespassing on facilities that are vital to agricultural operations, such as transportation, energy, and natural resource development facilities.

### H221 – Foreign Land Ownership

- This bill will help protect Idaho's agricultural land and natural resources from foreign interference by strengthening existing prohibitions against foreign land ownership.
- Moreover, this bill will help maintain the integrity of the domestic food supply by prohibiting hostile foreign entities from owning or controlling any agricultural land in Idaho.
- This bill is in line with IDA's current member-approved policy which states: "As a matter of state and national security, and for the protection of the integrity of a domestic food supply, we support legislation that prohibits foreign states, foreign governments, and enterprises controlled by foreign states and governments (such as sovereign investment funds) from owning, leasing, managing or controlling agricultural lands, grazing lands, and water rights within the state of Idaho."

### S1086 – Landowner rules, trespass

- This bill promotes the responsible recreational use and stewardship of land in Idaho by strengthening protections against unauthorized uses of such lands and by providing an enforcement mechanism against those who violate the terms of recreational use of land.
- Because some agricultural lands may be used for recreational activities, this bill will ensure that any such use complies with all conditions imposed by the farmer or rancher.

## Advocacy Efforts

IDA continues to advocate on behalf of the dairy industry regarding immigration-related legislation. H252, an E-Verify bill, was printed today (2/14/25). IDA will oppose this bill unless significant changes to the language are made based on our member-approved policies. Currently, IDA's policy states that "the responsibility for ultimate verification of the legal status of a worker lies with the government, not employers."

IDA's member-approved policies serve as the foundation of our legislative efforts, guiding all state advocacy initiatives. Until an affordable and efficient guest worker program is established to ensure the continued availability of immigrant labor for all agricultural sectors, including dairy, IDA is unlikely to support E-Verify legislation.

Additionally, IDA has helped establish the Idaho Workforce & Immigration Coalition, which has met weekly over the past month. This coalition brings together various industries across Idaho to advocate for sound immigration policies at both the state and federal levels.

## Looking Ahead

With the legislative session now at its halfway point, IDA continues to engage in key policy discussions that impact Idaho's dairy industry. From immigration and workforce issues to agricultural building permits, brand inspection fees, and right-to-farm legislation, we are actively shaping outcomes that matter to our members. While challenges persist, we have made significant progress and continue to receive strong support for our efforts. In the weeks ahead, IDA will remain proactive, ensuring that the interests of Idaho's dairymen are well represented at both the state and federal levels.

Thank you,

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## Status of Legislation

The following is a current report and update of all legislation monitored by IDA. Click on the hyperlinks to be directed to the Legislative website to read the legislation.

| Bill #                                                   | IDA Position | House              | Senate                           | Final |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| <a href="#">H11 – Immigration</a>                        | Oppose       | State Affairs      |                                  |       |
| <a href="#">H83 – Immigration, illegal entry</a>         | Support      | 2/10 /25<br>61-9-0 | State Affairs                    |       |
| <a href="#">H104 – Agricultural Buildings</a>            | Support      | 2/11/25<br>70-0-0  | Commerce &<br>Human<br>Resources |       |
| <a href="#">H155 – Strategic Facilities</a>              | Support      | Judiciary Rules    |                                  |       |
| <a href="#">H221 – Foreign Land Ownership</a>            | Support      | State Affairs      |                                  |       |
| <a href="#">S1016 – Brands, fees</a>                     | Support      |                    | Third Reading                    |       |
| <a href="#">S1033 – Agriculture, nuisance complaints</a> | Support      |                    | Third Reading                    |       |
| <a href="#">S1039 – Immigration enforcement</a>          | Support      |                    | State Affairs                    |       |
| <a href="#">S1086 – Landowner rules, trespass</a>        | Support      |                    | Resources &<br>Environment       |       |