

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE



February 23, 2026

Idaho State Updates

On Monday, January 12, 2026, the Second Regular Session of the 68th Idaho Legislature convened. Legislation is being introduced quickly, with 266 bills currently presented in the House and 115 in the Senate.

E-Verify Update

Senate

- In the Senate, S 1247 passed the full floor by a vote of 27-7. IDA remains neutral on this legislation as the legislation only pertains to state and local governments and entities that contract with the state in excess of \$100,000 and have more than 150 employees.

House

- The House introduced two new bills related to E-Verify. H 704 is a replacement for H 584 which would mandate all employers use the federal program. H 704 differs from H 584 in removing the provisions related to exemptions for casual and domestic labor and liability protections for when you hire a subcontractor. H 700 would make it a state crime to knowingly hire an undocumented worker which is already a federal crime. The legislation also allows for immunity if the employer is enrolled in E-verify.
- Both bills passed the House Business Committee today, H 704 passed 16-2 and H 700 16-3. These bills now await further consideration by the full House of Representatives. IDA testified against H 704 and submitted formal comments opposing H 700 as the concerns are largely the same with both bills.

Other Immigration Bills

- Legislation was introduced this week to require an audit of the Idaho refugee program. S 1318 would largely require the same reporting that the Idaho refugee program already does in addition to creating a crime
- H 660 was slated to have a hearing in House Judiciary and Rules Committee on Thursday and was pulled by the sponsor as law enforcement officials were in the audience ready to testify in opposition. The legislation would have created mandatory reporting requirements for law enforcement for any foreign national who is arrested.
- Legislation making it a crime for knowingly harboring or aiding an undocumented immigrant was introduced, House 693. Similar legislation was introduced last session (H335) and died in committee.

Milk Testing Legislation Introduced in House Agriculture

H 662 was introduced by Rep. John Vander Woude in House Agriculture and is supported by IDA and IMPA. The legislation clarifies that the Idaho State Department of Agriculture may test milk and cream for any quality parameter that is used by a buyer and seller to determine pricing. It also clarifies that the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, buyer, and seller have a right to the test sample.

Betty's Bill Passes Committee and House

On Tuesday, H652 was passed out of the House Natural Resources and Conservation Committee to make the official state sport for Idaho hunting. This bill comes from Hank Hafliker's nine-year-old granddaughter Betty Grandy who pursued the idea after she pitched Governor Little on the idea and he encouraged her to run legislation. Betty did an AMAZING job testifying in front of the committee and convinced the legislators to pass the bill out of committee unanimously.



The bill was made possible by Representatives Don Hall and Grayston Stone who paved the way for a successful hearing. The bill passed the House floor vote with 63 house members voting in favor, and 0 opposing the bill. Next, the bill heads to the Senate!

As always, if you have questions about the proposed legislation or would like to connect with your legislators to express your concerns or show support, please contact IDA. We are here to support you.

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
H0509 - Vehicle inspections	Support	Transportation & Defense		
H526 - Cottage food operations	Neutral	Passed 67-2-1	3rd Reading	
H584 - Workers, lawful status	Oppose	Business		
H652 - Hunting, state sport	Support	Passed 63-0-7		
H662 - Milk and cream testing	Support	Agricultural Affairs		
H667 - Motor Vehicles	Monitor	Transportation & Defense		
H700 - Aliens, unlawful employment	Oppose	Proceeds to full House		
H704 - Unauthorized workers	Oppose	Proceeds to full House		
S1224 - Slow moving vehicles	Support		Transportation	
S1247 - Idaho e-verify act	Monitor		Passed 27-7-1	
S1283 - Direct to consumer foods	Neutral	Agricultural Affairs		
SCR117 - Water district 4	Support	Resources & Conservation	Adopted - voice vote	
SCR118 - Water district 3	Support	Resources & Conservation	Adopted 31-3-1	
SCR119 - Water district 2	Support	Resources & Conservation	Adopted - voice vote	