

# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE



March 3, 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 310 bills currently presented in the House and 140 in the Senate.

### E-Verify Bills Pass House

- As was reported in the last legislative update, H 704 and H 700 passed the House Business Committee after controversial committee testimony. Rick Naerebout testified opposition to the legislation raising the economic concerns this would create for agriculture and the burdens on business the new government mandate would create for all businesses.
- Both bills passed the House on Friday. H 704 was 43-26 and H 700 was 36-33. The bills will now move to the Senate for further consideration.
- IDA applauds legislators who took a hard vote against H 704 ([link to vote](#)) and H 700 ([link to vote](#)).
- IDA is extremely grateful to those who spoke on the House floor against the bills and defended Idaho agriculture.
  - Rep. Doug Pickett, Rep. Jack Nelsen, Rep. Steve Miller, Rep. Jerald Raymond, Rep. Dan Garner, Rep. Britt Raybould, Rep. Sonia Galaviz, and Rep. Monica Church.

### Milk Testing Legislation Passes House Committee

- H 662 passed committee with a unanimous vote on Wednesday. Representative John VanderWoude presented the bill in House Agriculture and received no opposition from committee members. The next phase for H 662 will be the full House floor.

### Other Immigration Bills

- On Thursday, H 659 passed committee 12-4 despite receiving strong testimony against the legislation from law enforcement. H 659 would mandate that counties enter partnerships with ICE. This legislation relitigates last year's version of H83a, which was a compromise between many stakeholders including law enforcement.
- On Friday, a new version of H 656 was slated to be printed in House Education which would require schools to report the immigration status of their students. The legislation was not moved forward to print and died in committee on a tie vote.

### Twin Falls Legislator Shares Concerns with Food Processing

On Tuesday, Senator Josh Kohl spoke in the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee in support of S1283. Senate Bill 1283 would reduce government regulation concerning the sale of homemade food and non-alcoholic drink products direct to consumers within the state of Idaho.

During his remarks, Senator Kohl (District 25) referenced his career in food processing and claimed that food safety concerns happen “all the time,” and “people get sick going through the processing route regularly”. He further stated that direct-to-consumer food sales are better because fewer hands touch the product, leading to what he described as a safer outcome. In doing so, he made broad statements that cast the food processing industry, including the sector in which he is employed, in a negative light, suggesting safety failures that do not accurately reflect the strength, oversight, and standards of the industry.

His comments can be viewed [at the following the link](#).

Despite the inaccurate testimony by Senator Kohl, IDA is remaining neutral on this bill. We worked with the bill sponsor to include language that ensures dairy still must go through current state requirements, including labeling, testing, and sanitation standards.

If you would like to watch the entire untrimmed committee recording you can do so by visiting the [Idaho Legislature website](#).

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
<a href="#">H0509 - Vehicle inspections</a>	Support	Transportation & Defense		
<a href="#">H526 - Cottage food operations</a>	Neutral	Passed 67-2-1	Referred to 14th Order	
<a href="#">H584 - Workers, lawful status</a>	Oppose	Business		
<a href="#">H652 - Hunting, state sport</a>	Support	Passed 63-0-7	State Affairs	
<a href="#">H662 - Milk and cream testing</a>	Support	3rd Reading		
<a href="#">H667 - Motor Vehicles</a>	Monitor	2nd Reading		
<a href="#">H700 - Aliens, unlawful employment</a>	Oppose	Passed 36-33-1	State Affairs	
<a href="#">H704 - Unauthorized workers</a>	Oppose	Passed 43-26-1	State Affairs	
<a href="#">S1224 - Slow moving vehicles</a>	Support		Referred to 14th Order	
<a href="#">S1247 - Idaho e-verify act</a>	Monitor	Business	Passed 27-7-1	
<a href="#">S1283 - Direct to consumer foods</a>	Neutral	3rd Reading		
<a href="#">SCR117 - Water district 4</a>	Support	Resources & Conservation	Adopted - voice vote	
<a href="#">SCR118 - Water district 3</a>	Support	Resources & Conservation	Adopted 31-3-1	
<a href="#">SCR119 - Water district 2</a>	Support	Resources & Conservation	Adopted - voice vote	