

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE



March 17, 2026

Idaho State Updates

E-Verify and Other Immigration Legislation

IDA continues to monitor E-Verify legislation that would harm agriculture. H 704 and H 700 remain in the Senate State Affairs Committee. Stay tuned for more updates.

Two bills which aim to disrupt the foreign-born workforce received hearings yesterday.

- H659 would require local governments to enter into partnerships with the federal government (ICE) for the purposes of enforcing federal immigration law. H 659 relitigates H83a which was compromise legislation that IDA was engaged in 2025. The hearing occurred yesterday (3/16) in the Senate State Affairs Committee. The Idaho Sheriff's Association came out in opposition and testified against the bill. It died in committee with a 5-4 vote.
- The other legislation is H 660 which would require local law enforcement to report an arrest of any foreign national to the federal government. It also received a hearing yesterday (3/16) in the House Local Government Committee. This legislation would require reporting of individuals who are currently in the country legally and undocumented. The bill received a do-pass recommendation out of committee with a 8-7 vote.

Milk Testing Legislation Passes Senate Committee

On Thursday, the Senate Agriculture Committee passed H 662 which would create a fair process around quality testing when there is a dispute between producers and processors. Jamie Neill from IDA testified in support of the H 662 alongside the Intermountain Milk Processors Association. The legislation passed the committee unanimously after clearing the House the previous week 67-0. IDA is grateful to Rep. John VanderWoude for carrying the legislation on the House side and Sen. Lori Den Hartog and Sen. Julie Van Orden for moving the bill on the Senate side.

Legislation to Allow Protein Bars in SNAP Introduced in House Committee

IDA is thrilled to see an introduction of legislation to clarify that protein bars be included in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Protein bars were unintentionally excluded from the program after legislation passed in 2025 that banned candy and soda products from SNAP. Idaho is among several states working to clarify the oversight. IDA has been grateful of the work done by other interested groups such as the Idaho Retailers Association, National Grocers Association, International Dairy Foods Association, and the Intermountain Milk Processors Association.

IDA Hosts Legislative Banquet and Meets with Idaho Leaders

On Wednesday, IDA hosted their annual Legislative Banquet alongside UI CALS with special

guests from Idaho Milk Products. Daragh Macabee was the keynote speaker who highlighted the family history of Idaho Milk Products and the deep ties that remain to the dairy family farms across Idaho.

During the evening, nearly 300 people attended including key legislators and statewide elected officials. Rick Naerebout was able to give strong remarks in rebuttal to the rhetoric that has been espoused by out of state interest groups, and unfortunately some legislators.

On Thursday, the IDA Board was able to meet with Idaho Speaker of the House Mike Moyle, Senate Pro Tem Kelly Anthon, Lt. Governor Scott Bedke, and Governor Brad Little. The topics ranged from the need to push the federal government to fix the agricultural workforce and opportunities to bolster Idaho's water infrastructure for agriculture.

The IDA staff is VERY grateful for the membership that was able to attend any events this week as it truly helps show our elected officials why dairy matters to family farmers such as yourselves.



Sine Die in Sight?

With the targeted end of the 2026 legislative session set for March 27th, the likelihood of hitting that date seems in jeopardy as budgets are struggling to pass the House and Senate. The only constitutional responsibility of the Idaho Legislature each year is to pass a budget before they adjourn. On Friday, one of the largest budgets failed by a wide margin after a [passionate speech by Senator Jim Guthrie](#). At IDA, we know Senator Guthrie as a strong supporter for agriculture, but his respect and knowledge spans beyond our industry. IDA is grateful for leaders like Senator Guthrie.

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 | Referred to 14th Order | |
| H584 - Workers, lawful status | Oppose | Business | | |
| H652 - Hunting, state sport | Support | Passed 63-0-7 | Passed 34-0-1 | |
| H662 - Milk and cream testing | Support | Passed 67-0-3 | 3rd Reading | |
| H667 - Motor Vehicles | Monitor | Passed 46-21-3 | Transportation | |
| H700 - Aliens, unlawful employment | Oppose | Passed 36-33-1 | State Affairs | |
| H704 - Unauthorized workers | Oppose | Passed 43-26-1 | State Affairs | |
| S1224a - Slow moving vehicles | Support | Transportation | Passed 35-0-0 | |
| S1247 - Idaho e-verify act | Monitor | Business | Passed 27-7-1 | |
| S1283 - Direct to consumer foods | Neutral | 3rd Reading | Passed 32-3-0 | |
| SCR117 - Water district 4 | Support | Adopted - Voice Vote | Adopted 56-11-3 | Signed by President |
| SCR118 - Water district 3 | Support | Adopted 53-14-3 | Adopted 31-3-1 | Signed by PResident |
| SCR119 - Water district 2 | Support | Adopted - Voice Vote | 3rd Reading | |