

# GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE



April 3, 2026

## Idaho State Updates

### Immigration Related Legislation

- This year, the primary threat came from immigration hardliners pushing a series of aggressive proposals. These included mandating E-Verify for private employers, revoking business licenses for noncompliance, and imposing jail time on employers for not using e-verify. Additional proposals sought to require nationality screening in healthcare, public education, and law enforcement interactions, exert state-level control over local law enforcement practices, and even criminalize charitable efforts by churches and food banks.
- In response, IDA worked alongside a broad coalition of industry partners, including law enforcement, charities and churches, hospitality, construction, and other commodity groups to successfully push back.
- Ultimately, not a single hardline proposal was adopted into law. This outcome came despite significant pressure to pursue a dairy-specific carveout at the expense of other industry partners. Instead, dairy held the line and stood alongside its partners.

### Milk Quality Testing Legislation – Now a Law

- As discussed in previous legislative reports, IDA was successful in advancing legislation to improve the process for milk quality testing related to all analytes. The legislation passed unanimously in both chambers and the Governor signed the bill into law. 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.
- The next step will be to follow the rulemaking process through the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

### Protein Bar Legislation Stalls

- One of the IDA priorities this session was to help a coalition of food groups clarify what is allowed to be purchased in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Specifically related to dairy, protein bars were unintentionally excluded from the program after legislation passed in 2025 that banned candy and soda products from SNAP.
- Two bills were introduced to correct this oversight. Unfortunately, both stalled on the House floor and the legislation did not advance.
- 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 looks forward to addressing this issue in 2027.

**Betty's Bill!**

- As many of you have followed this session, a bright spot has been Cedar Ridge Dairy's very own Betty Grandy who has carried H 662 into law. The bill creates an official state sport for Idaho, which is now hunting.
- Thanks to Governor Brad Little, Representatives Don Hall and Grayson Stone, and Senator Treg Bernt for all their help to make this a reality.
- Thanks to Betty Grandy for showing us all that our future is so bright!

Thank you to Idaho's dairymen for staying engaged and involved throughout the legislative session. Your input and support are critical to ensuring our industry is well represented. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these issues further, please don't hesitate to reach out.

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	Passed 34-0-1	LAW+
<a href="#">H662 - Milk and cream testing</a>	Support	Passed 67-0-3	3rd Reading	LAW+
<a href="#">H667 - Motor Vehicles</a>	Monitor	Passed 46-21-3	Transportation	LAW+
<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="#">H903 - SNAP candy and soda</a>	Support	Health and Welfare		
<a href="#">H938 - SNAP, candy and soda</a>	Support	Health and Welfare		
<a href="#">S1224a - Slow moving vehicles</a>	Support	Passed 68-0-2	Passed 35-0-0	LAW+
<a href="#">S1247a - Idaho e-verify act</a>	Monitor	Amended - Passed 37-29-4	Passed 27-7-1	Senate did not concur
<a href="#">S1283 - Direct to consumer foods</a>	Neutral	Passed 56-12-2	Passed 32-3-0	LAW+
<a href="#">SCR117 - Water district 4</a>	Support	Adopted - Voice Vote	Adopted 56-11-3	ADOPTED+
<a href="#">SCR118 - Water district 3</a>	Support	Adopted 53-14-3	Adopted 31-3-1	ADOPTED+
<a href="#">SCR119 - Water district 2</a>	Support	Adopted - Voice Vote	Adopted - Voice Vote	ADOPTED+