

## Legislative Report

### April 4, 2008 • 13<sup>th</sup> and Final Week

### Sine Die!

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#### News to Use:

**Personal Property Tax Results “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”:** In the waning days of the session there was a great deal of work put into the process. In last week’s issue, IACI reported that the Senate, after several hours in caucus, had made drastic amendments to the legislation which were very similar to the failed House Democratic proposals requiring all businesses to continue tracking and reporting all of their equipment, forever. IACI, along with the entire business coalition, opposed the amendments and expressed opposition to the House, encouraging them not to concur with the amendments.

**First, the Ugly:** The Bismark saying of making laws and sausage where it is best not to watch either being made comes quickly to mind. When the legislation was transmitted by the Senate to the Speaker of the House, he chose to hold the legislation at his desk until he determined how he wanted to handle the measure since it was a completely different proposal from the one originally supported by the House.

Because it was so vastly different, the Speaker eventually chose a different route for the legislation and referred it back to the House Revenue & Taxation Committee for further consideration. In a rare move, the Minority Leader challenged the ruling of the Speaker on the floor, demanding that the legislation be given to the full House for consideration on concurrence. Ultimately, on a party line vote, the decision of the Speaker was upheld. The House Revenue & Taxation Committee considered the amendments from the Senate asking several questions of the Senate Chairman, and listened to debate from IACI representatives. The House committee chose not to concur and instead to recommend a conference committee. That report was sent to the House floor and upheld.

The following day the Conference Committee—comprised of Sen. Brent Hill (R-Rexburg), Sen. Joe Stegner (R-Lewiston), Sen. David Langhorst (D-Boise), Rep. Dennis Lake (R-Blackfoot), Rep. Jim Clark (R-Hayden) and Rep. Bill Killen (D-Boise)—met to discuss a possible agreement on the future of the legislation. After laying several issues on the table, such as: the operating property exclusion, reconsideration of the \$75,000 cap, the need for an economic trigger to protect state revenues, the lack of language to prevent new personal property valuations, the language allowing for local budgetary growth, and questions of why each business site versus each business would qualify for an exemption, the conference committee compromised and both houses unanimously passed legislation that is now awaiting the Governor’s final decision.

**The Good:** The legislative process worked as it was intended to work, and Legislators were able to come to a compromise on the personal property tax elimination for business for the first time in history. The most positive aspect of the legislation is that, when the state revenues finally exceed five percent, up to \$100,000 of personal property value per business will be exempted from being assessed the tax. IACI President Alex LaBeau was quoted widely stating; “There’s some good in what they’ve done. Looking at an exemption of that magnitude for those of our members that are small and medium-sized operations, that’s not an insignificant thing. I think we were successful in raising the visibility of a very important issue, which is the eventual elimination of a very bad tax.”

**More of the Good:** The business coalition that was comprised of a diverse group of business associations representing all sizes and markets held together throughout a very tense process. It is an indication to those who believe that there is fractionalization in the business community regarding the objective of eliminating this tax are sorely mistaken. A special thank you goes to all who held tough through a difficult negotiation process. IACI looks forward to working together with these coalition members and others on this and many additional issues.

**The Bad:** While compromise was a good thing, there are several important problems that remain unresolved. First, even though a business may be below the \$100,000 threshold, they will still be required to track all new and existing personal property because there is *no* mechanism in the legislation to ever phase out the tax. Second, the legislation complicates the property tax process for those businesses with multiple sites within a county. The exemption is only allowed once per business rather than per taxable entity. Those businesses with multiple sites that would normally all qualify for such an exemption will be disappointed to find out they are only allowed one cumulative amount. Finally, the legislation excludes businesses that are centrally assessed by the Idaho State Tax Commission rather than by local assessors. This provision treats certain businesses differently than others to the point that direct competitors in the marketplace will not receive the same benefit. IACI representatives made these shortcomings very clear to Legislators who understood that they will need to revisit the issue in the coming session.

**Annual Conference – Save the Date!** Mark your calendars for IACI’s 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference set for **Sunday, June 22, through Tuesday, June 24**, at the Tamarack Resort in Donnelly. Idaho business and legislative leaders will have the opportunity to address the critical issues facing our state by participating in interactive and proactive dialogue on key public policy issues. Governor *C.L. “Butch” Otter* has again been invited to be our keynote speaker. Registration and room block information will be provided in the next week.

**IACI Business PAC:** With the legislative session having concluded on Wednesday, the next major event in Idaho politics will be the Primary election at the end of next month (Tuesday, May 27th). For those of you who were unaware, IACI created a new Business PAC which will be fully engaged in the coming election cycle. The focus of the IACI Business PAC will be to financially assist candidates for Statewide, Legislative and Local office through independent expenditures and/or direct contributions for candidates who demonstrate commitment to the ideals of a free market society, who believe in the rights of the individual, and who are committed to preserving the free enterprise system. We would strongly encourage all members to consider joining in these efforts. While *all* member contributions are appreciated, IACI has created a series of special categories for higher contribution levels:

**\$250 contribution “Members Club”** — Receives Certificate of Appreciation and recognition at IACI annual meeting, Invitation to special IACI Annual meeting Reception

**\$500 contribution “President’s Club”** — Receives Certificate of Appreciation and recognition at IACI annual meeting, Invitation to special IACI Annual meeting Reception, IBP President’s Pin, Special recognition in the new IACI Website and invitations to special fundraising receptions with various Legislators.

**\$1,000 contribution “Chairman’s Club”** — Receives Plaque announcing IBP’s appreciation and recognition at the IACI annual meeting, Invitation to special IACI Annual meeting Reception, IBP Chairman’s Pin, Special recognition in the new IACI Website and invitations to special fundraising receptions with various Legislators and Statewide elected officials.

**2 year x \$3,500 contribution or \$7,000 in election cycle “Great American Club” (in honor of the late Charlie Clark)** — Receives Great American Pin, Special Honor at IACI Annual Meeting Reception, special fundraising receptions with various Legislators and Statewide elected officials, and a VOTING seat on the IBP.

IACI will also be working to distribute to all members a full performance evaluation on this year’s legislature as well as information on all of the candidates in the election.

**Upcoming IACI Meetings:**

There will be announcements soon regarding the committee meetings coming in the next two months leading up to the IACI Conference June 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> at Tamarack. The meetings will review IACI policy and seek to establish a series of priorities for the 2009 Legislative session.

**IACI Contact information:** Following is a list of contacts within the IACI organization. If there are issues with or questions on IACI policy, please do not hesitate to contact any of the following:

*Alex LaBeau*, IACI President  
(208) 343-1849 Ext. 12

*Jayson Ronk*, IACI Vice President  
(208) 343-1849 Ext. 16

*Mike Reynoldson*, Micron Technology  
Chair, Legislative/Public Policy Committees  
(208) 368-4344

*Ed Lodge*, Qwest Communications  
Chair, Tax & Fiscal Responsibility Committee  
(208) 385-2154

*Pat Armstrong*, Idaho Concrete/Idaho Sand & Gravel  
Chair, General Business Committee  
(208) 465-4003

*Alan Prouty*, J. R. Simplot Company  
Chair, Environment Committee  
208-389-7365



Idaho Association of  
Commerce & Industry  
The Voice of Business in Idaho®

**LEGISLATION TRACKING  
SHEET – 4/04/08**

*(IACI Position: (+) Support, (-) Oppose, (M) Monitoring, (N) Neutral)*  
**Action on Bill**

**Bold=Final**

Bill	Description	House	Senate	Final
H360 (M)	<b>(By Sen. Brad Little) – Establishing retailer nexus:</b> This legislation amends Section 63-3611 of the Idaho Code to provide that a "retailer engaged in business in this state" be defined as any retailer with substantial nexus in this state, and creates a new Section 63-3615A of the Idaho Code to define substantial nexus for any retailer having a franchisee or licensee operating under its tradename or owned by the same entity or corporation in the State of Idaho be required to collect taxes from its customers.	Passed 67-0-3	Passed 33-0-2	<b>Law</b> 3/3/08
H403aa (M)	<b>(Dept. of Administration) – Department of Administration:</b> This legislation will make changes to the statutes governing the department of administration .	Passed 62-8-0	State Affairs	
H412 (M)	<b>(Dept. of Insurance) – Managed Care Plans Requirements:</b> This legislation Amends existing law relating to managed care to revise the deposit required of an organization offering a limited managed care plan; to revise a due date for filing an annual report to the director of the Department of Insurance; to revise a requirement for certain information submitted to the Department of Insurance; and to revise a provision relating to grievance procedures.	Business		
H413 (M)	<b>(By Reps. Bilbao, Durst) – Absentee Voting:</b> This legislation would allow absentee voters the option of applying for status as a permanent absentee voter in all elections which they are qualified.	State Affairs		
H420 (+)	<b>(By Idaho Association of Counties) – Property Tax Payment Methods:</b> This legislation would allow counties to receive payment of taxes using a debit card, credit card, or electronic funds transfer.	Passed 68-0-2	Passed 33-0-2	<b>Law</b> 3/3/08

H428 (+)	<b>(By Sens. Schroeder, Coiner, Stennett, Siddoway, Reps. Raybould, Stevenson, Moyle, Bedke, Pence) – Aquifer Planning and Management:</b> This legislation repeals and adds to existing law relating to water to provide for a statewide comprehensive aquifer planning and management effort.	Passed 68-0-2	Passed 33-0-2	<b>Law</b> 3/17/08
H431 (+)	<b>(By Idaho Department of Commerce) – Small Employer Incentive Act:</b> The goal of this legislation is to change a portion of the Small Employer Incentive Act of 2005, by revising the definition of “tax incentive criteria” to make it more flexible and useful.	Passed 58-9-3	Passed 31-0-4	<b>Law</b> 3/14/08
H443 (+)	<b>(By Sen. Darrington, Rep. F. Wood, Idaho Hospital Association) – Hospital Assessment Act:</b> This legislation will increase federal Medicaid funding by assessing certain private hospitals the amount necessary to match the federal funds available for reimbursement to private hospitals. These dollars will enhance existing below-cost reimbursement to hospitals, thereby reducing the losses hospitals incur when they treat Medicaid patients. Additionally, the mitigation of some of these losses will lessen the impact of cost shifting to private payers and insurers.	Passed 65-0-5	Passed 33-0-2	<b>Law</b> 3/14/08
H469 (+)	<b>(By Sens. Hill, Davis) – Personal Property Taxes regarding leases of Tangible Personal Property:</b> This legislation provides that charges for personal property tax added to the rents paid by a lessee of tangible personal property are not subject to sales tax as long as the lease period is at least one year and the property tax is separately stated.	Passed 69-0-1	Passed 33-0-2	<b>Law</b> 3/14/08
H482 (+)	<b>(By Sen. Langhorst, Rep. Snodgrass) – Vehicle Inspection:</b> This legislation provides authority to the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a vehicle emission testing and maintenance program to control air pollution emissions from vehicles in air sheds that are approaching non-attainment with applicable air quality standards and rules.	Environment  <i>(replaced with H586)</i>		
H495 (+)	<b>(By Reps. Marriott, Nonini, Bilbao, Pasley-Stuart) – Public Corporations Bids for Worker’s Comp Coverage:</b> This legislation would amend Chapter 9 of Title 72 to permit public corporations to solicit bids for workers compensation liability insurance from private insurance carriers. Currently in Idaho Code, public corporations, such as city and county governments and school districts, may only insure against liability for workers compensation through the State Insurance Fund.	Passed 64-1-5	<b>Pulled</b> from Commerce & Human Resources	
H497 (-)	<b>(By Reps. Durst, Rusche) Public Works Contractors – Health Insurance:</b> Amends existing law to provide that as a condition for licensure of public works contractors licenses, the licensee shall provide health insurance to each of its employees that is equivalent or superior to the coverage the state of Idaho provides for its employees.	Business		
H525 (+)	<b>(By Rep. Moyle) – Eminent Domain - Takings and Conformance of Developments:</b> Ensures that pre-existing property rights of private citizens are protected and preserved after a portion of their property is condemned by a condemning authority.	Passed 48-18-4	Local Government	
H529aa (+)	<b>(By Centra Consulting, US Geothermal) – Taxation – Geothermal Energy:</b> The purpose of this legislation is to include producers of geothermal energy under the identical tax provisions of Idaho Code as producers of wind energy. It clarifies that the "Operating Property" as defined in Idaho Code Section 63-3501(h) is included in the definition of "Machinery and Equipment" as defined in Idaho Code Section 63-3622QQ(b).	Passed 67-0-3	Passed 35-0-0	<b>Law</b> 3/20/08
H531aa (+)	<b>(By Reps. Denney, Moyle; Roger Batt, Dan Steenson) – Negotiated Rulemaking:</b> This legislation strengthens the legislature’s statement of support for negotiated rulemaking by clarifying its purposes and providing minimum procedures.	Passed 54-12-4	<b>Failed</b> State Affairs	

H534 (-)	<b>(By Rep. Jaquet, King, Pence) – Workforce Housing Requirements:</b> The legislation will establish the requirement for owners or developers obtaining a residential building permit to develop or ensure the development of affordable workforce housing either onsite or on a site deemed eligible by the governing board. The legislation may require the owner or developer to pay a fee in lieu of onsite or eligible site development of affordable workforce housing.	Revenue & Taxation		
H543aa (+)	<b>(By Superintendent Luna, Mike Gwartney, Rep. Bob Nonini, et al.) – Idaho Education Network:</b> The purpose of this legislation is to enable the Department of Administration to start the process of implementing a statewide education network. This legislation would also create a place for funds when available for the continued development of the Idaho Education Network.	Passed 69-0-1	Passed 34-0-1	<b>Law</b> 3/25/08
H550 (+)	<b>(By Reps. Bayer &amp; Moyle, Sen. Heinrich; Ken Burgess) – Property Tax Exemptions:</b> The purpose of this legislation is to provide an economic development incentive for new manufacturing facilities construction and development in designated rural development areas in the state of Idaho.	Passed 66-4-0	Passed 28-7-0	<b>Law</b> 3/31/08
H561 (+)	<b>(By Rep. Jim Clark) Sales Tax – Production Exemption:</b> Amends existing law to provide that the production exemption from sales and use tax shall be available to a business or separately operated segment of a business engaged in the business of processing materials, substances or commodities for use as fuel for the production of energy.	Passed 60-10-0	Passed 27-7-1	<b>Law</b> 3/24/08
H562 (+)	<b>(By Rep. Mortimer) Capital Investments – Property Tax Exemptions:</b> Adds to existing law to provide a property tax exemption for certain new capital investments over \$400 million in a single county.	Passed 41-27-2	Passed 23-11-1	<b>Law</b> 3/24/08
H542 (-)	<b>(By Reps. Ringo &amp; Trail; Mike Walker/PFFI) – Workers Compensation for Firefighters:</b> Adds to the list of enumerated occupational diseases under Worker’s Compensation laws certain cancers for fighters exposed to toxic environment through employment.	Commerce & Human Resources		
H578 (+)	<b>(By Reps. Lake, Roberts, Clark, L. Smith, Ruchti &amp; Sens. Hill, Little, McGee, Bastian, Langhorst) – Community Infrastructure Districts:</b> Bill creates a financial tool to allow new growth to more expediently pay for itself through the creation of optional Community Infrastructure Districts.	Revenue & Taxation  <i>(replaced with H680)</i>		
H579 (M)	<b>(By Reps. Moyle, Wills, Denney, Bedke, Roberts, J. Wood, Anderson, Schaefer, Black, Barrett) – Taxing District:</b> Allows a vote of the people to limit a taxing district budget, thus lowering property taxes, while exempting school budgets.	Passed 39-29-2	Local Government	
H580 (M)	<b>(By Reps. Hart &amp; J. Wood) – Reallocation of Sales Tax Funds for Highways:</b> Allocates sales tax revenue from retail establishments that report under industry code 0553 (automobile parts) to the Highway Distribution Account.	Revenue & Taxation		
H581 (-)	<b>(By Reps. Leon Smith, JoAn Wood, Hart, Mortimer, Hagedorn) – Highways/GARVEE:</b> Retains original “Connecting Idaho” corridors; Limits total cumulative debt service to 20% of annual federal aid highway apportionments and sets forth parameters and guidelines for all future GARVEE funding.	Transportation		
H586 (+)	<b>(By Sen. Langhorst, Rep. Snodgrass) – Vehicle Inspection:</b> This legislation provides authority to the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a vehicle emission testing and maintenance program to control air pollution emissions from vehicles in air sheds that are approaching non-attainment with applicable air quality standards and rules.	Passed 42-26-2	Passed 20-15-0	<b>Law</b> 4/1/08

H588 (+)	<b>(By Reps. Bayer, VanderWoude, Eskridge, Henderson, Nonini, Anderson, Chadderdon, McGeachin, Mathews, Roberts, Labrador, Kren, Hagedorn &amp; Sens. Fulcher, Keough, McKenzie, Goedde, Broadsword, Hammond, Hill) – Grocery Tax Credit:</b> Incrementally increases the Food Tax Credit to \$50 for poorest, \$30 for all others, and an additional \$20 for seniors for tax year 2008, and credit continues to increase each tax year by \$10 until reaching \$100, eventually offsetting, on average, the state sales tax on qualified foods.	Passed 62-8-0	Passed 27-8-0	<b>Law</b> 3/31/08
H599aa (+) H599aaS (-) H599aaCC (-)	<b>(By Rep. Jim Clark, et al. &amp; Sen. Dean Cameron, et al.) Taxation – Personal Property Tax:</b> Amends and adds to existing law to provide that a taxpayer's list of taxable personal property may be amended to permit certain property to be listed or removed from the list; to provide that personal property shall be exempt from taxation; to provide a schedule for the personal property tax to be phased out; and to provide for distribution of sales tax moneys to counties and taxing districts.	Passed aa 39-31-0  Passed aa by Conf Cmtee 65-0-5	Passed aaS 35-0-0  Passed aa by Conf Cmtee 34-0-1	To Enrol 4/2/08
H603 (M)	<b>(By Sen. Keough &amp; Rep. Corder) – Motor Vehicles over 8,000 lbs. Registration Fees:</b> Increases fees for 8,000 to 60,000 maximum gross weight trucks licensed by counties, and combines all other vehicles between 60,001 and 129,000 lbs. and sets a single fee for each truck plus a mileage fee of \$.045 per mile.	Transportation		
H655aa (M)	<b>(By Reps. Moyle &amp; Nonini) – Highway Improvements:</b> Bill cleans up language in last year's STAR legislation and more clearly defines the definition of "highway improvements."	Passed aa 40-25-5	14 <sup>th</sup> Order	
H656aa (-)	<b>(By Rep. Snodgrass &amp; Ken Harward/AIC) – Development Impact Fees:</b> Clarifies that the definition of "development" under the Idaho Development Impact Fee law does not include public facilities constructed by taxing districts.	Passed aa 66-0-4	Passed aa 33-0-2	To Gov 4/3/08
H657 (+)	<b>(By Legislative Services) – GARVEE Bonds, Highway Projects:</b> Provides bonding authority for the issuance of GARVEE bonds to finance highway transportation projects from a designated list.	Passed 47-23-0	Passed 29-6-0	<b>Law</b> 4/1/08
H661 (M)	<b>(By Rep. Lake) – Corporate Headquarters Incentive Act:</b> Repeals Corporate Headquarters Incentive Act of 2005 and deletes certain rebate payments from the State Refund Account.	Passed 64-3-3	Passed 25-10-0	To Gov 4/1/08
H662aa (M)	<b>(By Rep. Lake) – Income Tax Credit/Broadband Equipment – Repeal:</b> Repeals existing law to delete the income tax credit for investment in broadband equipment.	Ret'd to Rev & Tax		
H663 (M)	<b>(By Rep. Lake) – Sales Tax Exemption/TV Broadcast Equipment – Repeal:</b> Repeals existing law to delete a sales tax exemption for radio and television broadcasting equipment.	Revenue & Taxation		
H664aa (M)	<b>(By Rep. Lake) – Research Activity/Income Tax Credit – Repeal:</b> Repeals existing law relating to income tax credits for research activity.	Passed aa 64-10-6	Passed aa 29-3-3	To Gov 4/2/08
H680 (+)	<b>(By Rep. Lake et al. &amp; Sen. Hill et al.) – Community Infrastructure Districts –</b> Creates a financial tool to allow new growth to pay for itself through the creation of Community Infrastructure Districts (CIDs). Only infrastructure that is impact fee-eligible, such as highways, roads, bridges, sewer, and water treatment facilities, and police, fire, and other public safety facilities may be funded with bond proceeds generated by a CID.	Passed 50-18-2	Passed 29-4-2	To Gov 4/3/08

HCR45 (M)	<b>(By Reps. Clark, Moyle) – Property Tax Study:</b> This resolution authorizes the Legislative Council to establish an interim committee to study Idaho's property tax system, including the expenditure of property tax revenues, to determine if such expenditures might more reasonably be covered from other revenue sources, and to make recommendations to provide property tax relief while encouraging economic development, meeting the needs of local governments, and furthering the improved administration of Idaho's criminal justice, juvenile justice and court systems.	Adopted 67-0-3	Adopted 33-2-0	To Sec of State 4/1/08
HCR50aa (M)	<b>(By Reps. L. Smith, J. Wood, Hart, Mortimer, Hagedorn, M. Shepherd, Raybould, Stevenson, Schaefer, Wills, Andrus, Harwood, Loertscher, Ruchti, Barrett, Eskridge) – Transportation Dept. Evaluation:</b> Authorizes Joint Legislative Oversight Committee through the Office of Performance Evaluations, to hire outside consultants to evaluate the way ITD does business with consultants and contractors. The completed report goes back to JLOC and ITD Board.	Adopted aa 67-0-3	Adopted aa 31-2-2	To Sec of State 4/1/08
S1249 (M)	<b>(By Sen. Keough, Reps. Eskridge, Anderson) – North Idaho Adjudication amendments:</b> This legislation Amends existing law relating to water rights adjudication to delete reference to water rights adjudication in the Kootenai and Clark Fork-Pend Oreille river basin. The purpose of this legislation is to remove Basins # 96, 97, 98, from the NIA.		Resources & Environment	
S1278 (M)	<b>(By Sens: Broadsword, Keough, Reps. Eskridge, Anderson, Mary Lou Shepherd, Harwood) – Rathdrum Prairie Adjudication Narrowing:</b> This legislation would narrow the focus of the North Idaho Water Adjudication to the Rathdrum Prairie.		Resources & Environment	
S1279 (M)	<b>(By Sen: Broadsword, Reps. Mary Lou Shepherd, Harwood) – North Idaho Adjudication repeal:</b> This legislation would repeal the Idaho Code relating to the northern Idaho water right adjudication.		Resources & Environment	
S1283 (-)	<b>(By Human Rights Commission) – Allows attorney fees in discrimination cases:</b> This legislation would provide that a district court may issue an order for attorney's fees in a civil action filed by the Human Rights Commission or filed by a person alleging unlawful discrimination. IACI believes this would lead to an unsubstantiated increase in the number of claims by setting up plaintiffs firms to receive bounties.		Judiciary & Rules	
S1289 (-)	<b>(By Sen. Stennett) – Nuclear facility election:</b> This legislation would require a vote of the people to construct a nuclear facility in Idaho.		State Affairs	
S1291 (-)	<b>(By Sens. Stennett, Langhorst, Kelly, Burkett, Werk, Bilyeu, Sagness) – Personal financial disclosure:</b> This legislation would require elected officials and candidates for public office to file personal financial disclosure statements with the Secretary of State.		State Affairs	
S1292 (-)	<b>(By Sens. Stennett, Langhorst, Kelly, Burkett, Werk, Bilyeu, Sagness) – “Fair” elections act:</b> This legislation would establish an alternative campaign financing option by creating the Idaho Fair Elections Trust Fund.		State Affairs	
S1293 (-)	<b>(By Sens. Stennett, Langhorst, Kelly, Burkett, Werk, Bilyeu, Sagness) – Energy facility siting:</b> This legislation provides for an energy facility siting panel to approve or disapprove sites for the proposed construction and operation of large merchant electric generation facilities.		State Affairs	
S1302 (-)	<b>(By Sen. Kelly) – Lobbying prohibition for elected officials:</b> This legislation would require a one-year “cooling off” period before a former legislator or executive official could register as a lobbyist.		State Affairs	

S1303 (-)	<b>(By Sen. Kelly) – Lobbying door prohibition for public officials:</b> This legislation would require a one-year “cooling off” period for former government officers and employees before lobbying the groups they previously worked with.		State Affairs	
S1304 (-)	<b>(By Sens. Stennett, Langhorst, Kelly, Burkett, Werk, Sagness) –</b> Raises homestead exemption to \$150,000: This legislation would increase the homeowner property tax exemption to \$150,000.		Local Government & Taxation	
S1314 (-)	<b>(By Sens. Stennett, Langhorst, Kelly, Burkett, Werk,) – Moratorium on merchant power plants:</b> This bill would place a two (2) year moratorium on applying for or issuance of permits, licenses or construction of a merchant thermal power plant.		State Affairs	
S1315 (-)	<b>(By Sens. Stennett, Langhorst, Kelly, Burkett, Werk, Bilyeu, Sagness, Corder) – Sunset to all sales or income tax exemptions:</b>  This legislation proposes to implement a "zero-based tax exemption" system which would apply to all Idaho statutory tax credits, deductions, and exemptions. It provides for the expiration of all such credits, deductions, and exemptions on a periodic basis unless they are reauthorized by statute.		Local Government & Taxation	
S1344aa (M)	<b>(By Department of Health &amp; Welfare) – Requirement of Cooperation with H&amp;W to be an insurer in Idaho:</b> This legislation would require insurance companies to share coverage information about Medicaid recipients and enhances the Department’s ability to recover funds that should have been paid by insurance carriers. The purpose of this proposed legislation is to bring Idaho in compliance with Federal Law.	Passed 63-0-7	Passed aa 33-0-2	<b>Law</b> 3/17/08
S1345 (-)	<b>(By Department of Health &amp; Welfare) – Medical Assistance:</b> The purpose of this legislation is to require consent of the Department of Health and Welfare in order to settle claims against third parties which affect the recovery rights of the Department. It also requires judgments and settlements against third parties to give priority to recovery of medical assistance payments.		Health & Welfare	
S1360 (M)	<b>(By Sen. Corder) – Transportation funding:</b> This legislation will allow financing for projects under one of two conditions: (1) Judicial determination concludes that the project is “ordinary and necessary” and the board makes the build decision, or (2) The Board puts the decision to the patrons of the jurisdictional authority. Loans will be secured and paid by the collection of tolls from the project.		<b>Held</b> in Transportation	
S1393 (+)	<b>(By Alex LaBeau) – Business Interests Protection:</b> This legislation provides that an employer may enter into agreements with key employees and key independent contractors to protect a company’s legitimate business interests. The legislation defines “key employees” and “legitimate business interests,” and creates rebuttable presumptions as to the terms of the agreements.	Passed 43-27-0	Passed 25-10-0	<b>Law</b> 3/28/08
S1423 (-)	<b>(By Sen. Stennett) – Transfer of Authority to Navigable Bodies of Water to Department of Parks Recreation:</b> This legislation would transfer the authority to regulate and control the use or disposition of lands in the beds of navigable lakes, rivers and streams, to the ordinary high water mark from the state board of land commissioners to the park and recreation board.		Resources & Environment	
S1436 (+)	<b>(By Sen. Goedde) – Teachers - Salaries:</b> This legislation provides for a new method of teacher compensation in Idaho, called the Idaho State Teacher Advancement and Recognition System, or I-STARS.		<b>Failed</b> 16-19-0	
S1444aa (N)	<b>(By Sens. Bastian &amp; Broadsword, Reps. Bock &amp; Anderson) – Volunteer Emergency Responders - Worker’s Compensation:</b> Amends worker’s compensation act to provide minimum weekly benefits for volunteer emergency responders who are injured or disabled in the line of duty.	Passed aa 70-0-0	Passed aa 34-0-1	<b>Law</b> 3/31/08

S1446 (M)	<b>(By Sec. Ysursa, ProTem Geddes, Speaker Denney) – Lobbyist Reporting:</b> Clarifies Sunshine Laws with regard to lobbyist reporting. Expands definition of ‘executive official’ and defines ‘lobbying’ to include building relationships and promoting goodwill, and clarifies what is to be reported.	Passed 69-0-1	Passed 31-1-3	<b>Law</b> 3/28/08
S1448 (+)	<b>(By Roy Eiguren and Pat Barclay) –</b> Amends Administrative Procedures Act to provide expanded definition of “guidance,” amends the act to conform to an Idaho Supreme Court definition of “rule,” and conforms legislative actions concerning rules review by deleting ability of Legislature to amend or modify rules to conform to another Idaho Supreme Court case.	State Affairs	Passed 32-0-3	
S1484 (+)	<b>(By Sens. Pearce, Richardson, Jorgenson &amp; Reps. Denney &amp; Nielsen) – Initiatives/Requirements Revised:</b> Allows for a statement of fiscal impact of proposed voter initiatives on state revenue, local government, private property and business. Allows voters to be fully informed on the cost or benefit of any initiative.	State Affairs	Passed 23-9-3	
SJR107 (M)	<b>(By Ken Harward, Dan Chadwick, Steve Millard) – Revenue Generating Facilities:</b> In response to <i>City of Boise v. Frazier</i> in 2006, amends Constitution to restrict multi-year debts and liabilities for political subdivisions of the state. It keeps 2/3 voter approval for general obligations and many revenue-funded obligations, and majority voter approval of health and safety-related revenue-funded obligations such as water and sewer.	<b>Failed</b> 36-33-1	Adopted 34-0-1	

