

LOBBYIST MONTHLY REPORT FORM

Page _____ of _____ Page(s)
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State of Idaho

Ben Ysursa
Secretary of State

To Be Filed By:

L-3 LOBBYISTS
(Sec. 67-6619)

05 MAR -7 PM 4:09

SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF IDAHO

(Type or print clearly in black ink)
See instructions at bottom of page

Lobbyist's name and permanent business address Steve Ahrens Idaho Assn. of Commerce & Industry PO Box 389 Boise ID 83701-0389	Date prepared 3/3/05	Period covered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> month ending (Mo.) (Day) (Yr.) 2 28 05
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Item 1	Totals of all reportable expenditures made or incurred by Lobbyist or by Lobbyist's Employer on behalf of Lobbyist's Employer.				
Category of Expenditure Reimbursed Personal Living and Travel Expenses Pertaining to Lobbying Activity Do Not Have to be Reported	* Total Amount for All Employers	Proportionate amounts contributed by each employer (Identify employers, under Item 3, at bottom of page.)			
		Employer No. 1	Employer No. 2	Employer No. 3	Employer No. 4
Entertainment	\$ 37.60	\$ 37.60	\$	\$	\$
Food and Refreshment					
Living Accommodations					
Advertising					
Travel					
Telephone	70.00	70.00			
Other Expenses or Services	120.00	120.00			
Total	\$ 227.60	\$ 227.60	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

*When the number of employers you are reporting for requires multiple L-3 forms to be filed a total amount for all employers should be entered on Page 1.

Item 2	The totals of each expenditure of more than fifty dollars (\$50) for a legislator or other holder of public office.			
Date	Place	Amount	Names of Legislators & Public Officials in Group	
	None			

POSTED

Continued on attached page(s)

INSTRUCTIONS	Item 3	Employer(s) Name(s) and Address(es)
<p>Who should file this form: Any lobbyist registered under Section 67-6617 Idaho Code.</p> <p>Filing deadline: Monthly reports due within ten (10) days of the month for activities of the past month.</p> <p>TO BE FILED WITH: Ben Ysursa Secretary of State PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0080 Phone: (208) 334-2852 Fax: (208) 334-2282</p>	No.1	Idaho Assn. of Commerce & Industry PO Box 389 Boise ID 83701-0389
	No.2	
	No.3	
	No.4	

Item 4	Expenditures made by the lobbyist or by the lobbyist's employer in the nature of contributions of money or other tangible or intangible personal property to any Legislator, or for or on behalf of any legislator.		
	Date	Amount	Name of Legislator Receiving or Benefited
			None

Item 5	Subject matter of proposed legislation, the number of the Senate or House Bill, Resolution or other legislative activity in which the Lobbyist was supporting or opposing.	
	Subject Code (from table)	Bill, Resolution or Other Legislative Ident. Number
1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30	See attached	Appropriation Bill Number and Section Number

LEGISLATIVE SUBJECT IDENTIFICATION	
Code	Subject
01	Agriculture, horticulture, farming, and livestock
02	Amusements, games, athletics and sports
03	Banking, finance, credit and investments
04	Children, minors, youth, senior citizens
05	Church and religion
06	Consumer affairs
07	Ecology, environment, pollution, conservation, zoning, land and water use
08	Education
09	Elections, campaigns, voting, political parties
10	Equal rights, civil rights, minority affairs
11	Government, financing, taxation, revenue, budget, appropriations, bids, fees, funds
12	Government, county
13	Government, federal
14	Government, municipal
15	Government, special districts
16	Government, state
17	Health service, medicine, drugs and controlled substances, health insurance, hospitals
18	Higher education
19	Housing, construction, codes
20	Insurance (excluding health insurance)
21	Labor, salaries and wages, collective bargaining
22	Law enforcement, courts, judges, crimes, prisons
23	License, permits
24	Liquor
25	Manufacturing, distribution and services
26	Natural resources, forest and forest products, fisheries, mining and mining products
27	Public lands, parks, recreation
28	Social insurance, unemployment insurance, public assistance, workmen's compensation
29	Transportation, highways, streets and roads
30	Utilities, communications, televisions, radio, newspaper, power, CATV, gas
31	Other (please specify) _____

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the above is a true, complete and correct statement in accordance with Section 67-6624 Idaho Code.

Stephen H. Shivers 3-7-05
Lobbyist signature Date

BILLS TO FOLLOW

(IACI Position: + Support, - Oppose, M= Monitoring, N=Neutral)

Shaded Area=Change from Last Week

Bold=Final Action on Bill

Bill	Description	House	Senate	Final
H2 (+)	(By Department of Commerce & Labor) EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW – Prevents an Unemployment Insurance tax evasion scheme called “SUTA Dumping” – e.g., a company with a negative unemployment insurance rating acquires a company with a positive rating and assumes the better rates. Sets forth procedures for assignment of rates and transfers of experience; Provides civil and felony penalties (depending on severity of the case) for specified violations (H2 includes a civil penalty for SUTA Dumping of a 10% increase in UI rates for 1 year, less stringent than the federal felony penalty of increasing to the maximum UI rate for 4 years); Provides that the DC&L director shall establish procedures to identify the transfer or acquisition of a business; Conforms Idaho law to federal law.	Passed 62-6	Passed 33-0	LAW
H4 (+)	(By Department of Commerce & Labor) A three-year freeze on Unemployment Insurance tax rates, which had held the UI rate at 0.8%, ended Dec. 31, 2004. Without the freeze, the unemployment insurance tax rate for employers will more than double to 1.7%, which would cost employers \$344 million over the next 6 years. H4, however, will replace the 113% average tax increase in 2005 with a 12.5% UI rate increase, raising rates instead by \$72 million over 6 years. H4 also will <i>reduce benefit payouts</i> by about \$72 million over 6 years, balancing out the rate increase. In addition, H4 will reduce fraud and waste by providing additional tools to collect delinquent UI taxes and increasing penalties for UI fraud. Finally, H4 caps the unencumbered balance of the Workforce Development Training Fund at \$6 million. Has emergency clause retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005; no impact on state general fund.	Passed 65-0	Passed 35-0	LAW
H10 (+)	(By State Tax Commission) This is the annual bill to conform Idaho’s tax code to changes in the federal Internal Revenue Code (IRC). This bill also makes two changes that affect Idaho taxpayers: (1) Requires that any deduction for general state sales taxes allowed by the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 be added back when computing Idaho taxable income, and (2) Allows Idaho taxpayers to deduct charitable contributions made in January 2005 for relief of the Indian Ocean tsunami victims on their 2004 tax returns. The bill would be effective retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005. Fiscal impact: An increase of \$1.1 million to the state’s General Fund in FY2005, and \$800,000 in FY06.	Passed 70-0	Passed 32-0	LAW
H65 (-)	(By Rep. Tom Trail) “Idaho Economic Recovery and Sales Tax Reform Act of 2005” – Reduces sales/use tax from 6% to 4%, saving \$180 million; Raises \$61.3 million in new revenue by repealing certain sales/use tax exemptions (\$49.8 million), and imposing sales/use tax on many services (\$191.5 million).	Revenue & Taxation		
H69 (-)	(By Reps. Julie Ellsworth, Wendy Jaquet, JoAn Wood) Puts price caps on telephone rates charged by rate-regulated telephone corporations to provide stability and predictability of pricing for consumers.	State Affairs		
H99 (+)	(By Rep. Mike Moyle) Any taxing district may call an election to ask voters to approve, by two-thirds or more, a budget increase from property tax revenues beyond the amount authorized by statute.	Revenue & Taxation		
H104 (-)	(By Rep. Bert Stevenson) Allows the boundaries of highway districts, cemetery districts, fire protection districts and flood control districts to be adjusted if a property used to produce electricity utilizing wind contains more than five electrical generating towers and is located within five miles of the boundary of the respective districts.	Local Government		

H109 (-)	(By Rep. Leon Smith) Would allow a home occupied by a 65-year-old resident to receive a deferment of annual tax increases above 2% until that resident moves out, dies or rents the residence. At that time, the deferred taxes would become due and payable within six months of vacating the premises. The deferred taxes would be a lien upon the premises. Fraudulent use of this statute to escape payment of taxes would be punishable by civil penalty up to \$10,000 per year, in addition to recovery of the deferred taxes.	Revenue & Taxation (Lake Subcommittee)		
H124 (-)	(By Rep. Shirley McKague) Allows a property tax exemption for a residential property owner/resident at least 70 years old; exemption must be applied for.	Revenue & Taxation (Lake Subcommittee)		
H126 (+)	(By Intermountain Forest Association, Idaho Association of Counties & Idaho Forest Owners Association) Implements a new method of valuing forest land. The new method, as outlined in the 2005 Users Guide developed by the statutorily-designated Committee on Forestland Taxation Methodologies (CFTM), uses the soil expectation/net present value approach to value forest lands in category 6. Passage of the legislation will require the adoption of rules necessary for implementing the new methodology. This legislation is intended to encourage private forest land owners in taxation category 6 to retain and improve their holdings of forest lands and to promote better forest management by putting in place a new method of valuing forest land.	Passed 69-0	3 rd Reading	
H151 (-)	(By Rep. Jim Clark) H151 would enact a pay-per-view (PPV) tax on the proceeds received by fight promoters who broadcast events on pay-per-view television into Idaho. The amount of the tax due would equal 5% of the subscription price charged to the consumer, multiplied by the number of subscriptions sold to watch an event in Idaho. Historically, the Idaho Athletic Commission (IAC) has not generated sufficient funds from fees and taxes imposed on regulated parties to pay expenses. It's estimated this PPV tax would cost \$20,000 to \$40,000, providing adequate revenue for the Commission to pay for its operations.	Held in Revenue & Taxation on 12-5 vote	---	---
H152 (+)	(By Reprs. Bruce Newcomb, Bert Stevenson, Dell Raybould, Scott Bedke & Wendy Jaquet, and Sens. Bob Geddes, Don Burtenshaw, Gary Schroeder, Stan Williams & Clint Stennett) The Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004: This legislation approves, ratifies and confirms the Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004; it authorizes and directs the Governor and the executive branch agencies with obligations under the agreement to execute and perform all actions consistent with this act that are necessary to implement the agreement.	Resources & Conservation (Vote on 2-25-05)		
H153 (+)	(By Reprs. Bruce Newcomb, Bert Stevenson, Dell Raybould, Scott Bedke & Wendy Jaquet, and Sens. Bob Geddes, Don Burtenshaw, Gary Schroeder, Stan Williams & Clint Stennett) Implements Snake River Flow Component of the Snake River Water Rights Agreement of 2004 by extending the interim authority for rental of water to augment flows for anadromous fish listed under the endangered species act for the term of the Agreement. All water rentals must be from willing sellers and must be secured through the state water supply bank and local rental pools. The total amount of water provided from all sources in the Snake River Basin above Lewiston, including storage and natural flow water rights, may not exceed 487,000 acre-feet in any single year.	Resources & Conservation (Vote on 2-25-05)		
H154 (+)	(By Reprs. Bruce Newcomb, Bert Stevenson, Dell Raybould, Scott Bedke & Wendy Jaquet, and Sens. Bob Geddes, Don Burtenshaw, Gary Schroeder, Stan Williams & Clint Stennett) Passage of this legislation establishes the Snake River Water Rights Agreement minimum stream flow water rights adopted by the Idaho Water Resource Board. The Board shall hold the minimum stream flow rights in trust for the people of the State of Idaho.	Resources & Conservation (Vote on 2-25-05)		

<p>H163 (+)</p>	<p>(By Reps. Max Black, Sen. John Andreason, Idaho Building Contractors Association, and the Idaho Association of Realtors) This bill will create a registration system for contractors and would require that all contractors be registered with the state Bureau of Occupational Licenses. The intent is to give the State of Idaho a way to stop unscrupulous or dishonest building contractors from continuing to practice in this state. Application for registration would require a statement disclosing whether any person with an ownership interest in the business has ever been suspended or prohibited from practicing construction in Idaho or any other state. It would require proof that the applicant has complied with Idaho's workers compensation law, and that the applicant has a general liability insurance policy in an amount not less than \$300,000.</p>	<p>2nd Reading</p>		
<p>H164 (+)</p>	<p>(By Skip Smyser) (1) Removes all provisions authorizing assessment of property taxes by any districts and clarifies that the sole sources of tax support for auditorium districts shall be hotel/motel room taxes. (2) Expands the board of directors of auditorium districts from five (5) to seven (7) to give broader representation to residents of the district. (3) Clarifies that the Campaign Reporting Law applies to any election conducted by auditorium districts of directors and elections on any measures, including propositions of any kind submitted to vote of the district.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation</p>		
<p>H165 (+)</p>	<p>(By Reps. Lawrence Denney, Mike Moyle & Wendy Jaquet, and Sens. Brad Little and Clint Stennett) This measure would shorten the holding period required for Real Estate transactions from 18 months to 12 months to qualify for long-term Capital Gains taxation. This would bring Idaho into Federal Internal Revenue Service compliance for tax treatment of long-term capital gains. Would reduce general fund by \$500,000</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation</p>		
<p>H176 (+)</p>	<p>(By Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry, Association of Idaho Cities, and Intermountain Forest Association) Directs the Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality to develop information necessary for the Legislature to determine if the State of Idaho should seek primacy of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This legislation provides the framework for the Department to submit an NPDES primacy package to EPA.</p>	<p>Passed 69-0</p>	<p>Health & Welfare</p>	

<p>H216 (+)</p>	<p>(By Governor Dirk Kempthorne) (Replaces H142) Corporate Headquarters Incentive Act This bill provides tax incentives for location or expansion of corporate headquarters in Idaho. To qualify for the incentives, a company must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create at least 500 new jobs in Idaho; • Jobs must have a starting annual salary of at least \$50,000 per year, plus benefits; • Invest at least \$50 million in new headquarters and administrative buildings; and • Accomplish this within a five-year period. <p>Qualifying companies would receive these <u>income tax</u> credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 6% investment tax credit with no credit limitation. • An additional new jobs tax credit with a graduated scale starting at \$1,000 per job and climbing to \$3,000 per job. • A 10% real property improvement tax credit for investment in headquarters and administrative buildings of up to \$500,000 in any one year. <p>Qualifying companies would receive these <u>property tax</u> benefits: A temporary property tax abatement for new headquarters and administrative buildings of up to \$2 million in any year. The state, not local governments, pays the abatement.</p> <p>Qualifying companies would also receive a <u>temporary sales tax</u> abatement for materials used in new headquarters and administrative buildings.</p> <p>If a corporation fails to maintain adherence to these criteria, normal recapture provisions apply.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation</p>		
<p>H217 (+)</p>	<p>(By Idaho School Boards Association) H217 would eliminate the statutory requirement that districts provide support (mentoring) programs for certificated employees who are experiencing their first 3 years with the district.</p>	<p>Education</p>		
<p>H222 (+)</p>	<p>(By Potlatch Corp.) H222 will allow a business to voluntarily provide confidential financial information to a county assessor for the assessor to use in the process of determining the fair market value assessment of the property. Upon passage of this legislation, financial information being voluntarily provided will not be subject to public disclosure. Under current law, this type of information may be subject to public disclosure and therefore is withheld from the assessment process, which thereby inhibits full and complete value assessment of the property.</p>	<p>2nd Reading</p>		
<p>H224 (+)</p>	<p>(By QWEST) H224 will allow Idaho's regulated telephone companies to forego the former monopoly-based regulation and, following a transition period of up to five years, be a full participant in the competitive communications marketplace. H224 prohibits rural rate increases above the rate established in the company's most populous urban area, thus giving the rural customer the benefit of the competition that now exists and will continue to grow, in the urban areas. This provision does not sunset or end with the conclusion of the transition period. H224 also guarantees that a customer will always have the option of "plain old telephone service" (POTS), without having to take package plans or services the customer does not want.</p>	<p>2nd Reading</p>		
<p>H228 (-)</p>	<p>(By Rep. Julie Ellsworth) Authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to establish, by rule, minimum telecommunications service quality standards, reporting procedures, and to determine circumstances when the service quality standards should not apply; authorizes the commission to assess administrative penalties by rule for failure to meet minimum telecommunications service quality standards.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>		

<p>H230 (+)</p>	<p>(By Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry) Under Idaho law, air pollution source permits are to be issued in conformity with federal programs established under the Clean Air Act. Recently, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho interpreted portions of the Idaho air rules in a manner that exceeds federal requirements. H230 requires the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to adopt rules that conform state law to the Clean Air Act (and its regulations) with respect to the scope of "regulated air pollutants" included for pollution source permit applicability. Air contaminants included in determining whether pollution source construction or operating permit requirements apply for programs administered by the Department must be consistent with, and no more stringent than, the air contaminants included for such permitting determinations under the Clean Air Act and its regulations. H230 conforms state law to the federal Clean Air Act and regulations, so fugitive emissions are not included in calculations to determine the applicability of construction or operating permit requirements, unless expressly designated under the Clean Air Act by the EPA Administrator.</p>	<p>Sent to floor with do-pass recommendation</p>		
<p>H238 (+)</p>	<p>(By Rep. Mack Shirley and University of Idaho) H238 has two purposes: Protect research in the development stage, and protect the identity of the participants. Once the research is completed, the results will be made available to the public.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>		
<p>H241 (-)</p>	<p>(By Rep. Wendy Jaquet & Sen. Clint Stennett) Increases the homeowner's exemption value limit from \$50,000 to \$70,000, while retaining the 50% of market value cap. The exemption may also include up to 20% of the residential land value. A portion of land value is included to prevent a shift to the low value improvement owner who would not otherwise realize a benefit.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation <i>(Lake Subcommittee)</i></p>		
<p>H242 (-)</p>	<p>(By Reps. George Eskridge, Bill Deal and Eric Anderson, & Sen. Shawn Keough) Raises current homeowner's exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation <i>(Lake Subcommittee)</i></p>		
<p>H243 (-)</p>	<p>(By Rep. Frank Henderson) Provides property tax relief by increasing the amount of the Homeowner's Exemption for those over 65 and by applying the exemption to the land directly associated with the residential improvement. Relief is provided in three increments: (1) It retains the Homeowner's Exemption for all owner-occupied residences at the present \$50,000 level, but applies the exemption to the land. (2) It authorizes an increase in the Homeowner's Exemption to \$75,000 for all persons 65 years of age whose income is less than \$33,090 per year. (3) It makes a \$75,000 Homeowner's Exemption available to special categories of people of any age, who have an annual income of no more than \$33,090, including: Widow(er), Blind, former Prisoner of War/Hostage, Veteran with a 30% or more service-connected disability or a Disabled Person recognized by the Social Security Administration, Railroad Retirement Board or Federal Civil Service.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation <i>(Lake Subcommittee)</i></p>		
<p>H251 (+)</p>	<p>(By Mike Brassey) H251 will promote orderly growth and development in rural and non-rural areas. The bill provides a mechanism for paying for infrastructure for the within the district. Only the property in the district that is specially benefited by those improvements will pay the cost of improvements. The bill provides for formation of a public infrastructure improvements district by a petition filed by 100% of the owners of all the land in which the proposed district would be located. A district would be formed to build new public infrastructure improvements to serve new growth and development, and to provide for payment of those costs by the new growth and development. After formation, a district would be able to issue general obligation and revenue bonds, following notice, hearing and election. General obligation bonds would require a 2/3rd super majority vote of the qualified electors of the district. Revenue bonds would require either a 2/3rd majority or a simple majority, as controlled by the Idaho Constitution.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation</p>		

H254 (+)	(By Reps. Dell Raybould & Ken Roberts) Clarifies the agricultural exemption in development areas; Provides a 10-year, phased-out exemption on parcels within rural subdivisions outside city limits. Qualifying parcels are appraised at full market value, but receive a 95% exemption for assessment purposes for the first 5 years after approval and recording. In years 6 through 9, the exemption decreases to 20%, yearly until, in the 10 th year the parcel, is appraised at full market value for assessment purposes. The exemption is lost upon sale, annexation, or improvement to the parcel. The exemption applies to all counties. Section 4 clarifies that subdivision platting alone does not extinguish the agricultural exemption, provided that requirements for the exemption continue to be met.	Revenue & Taxation		
S1004 (-)	(By Sens. Stan Williams, John Andreason & Curt McKenzie, and Reps. JoAn Wood, Ann Rydalch & Gary Collins) Requires that, beginning on April 1, 2010, all gasoline sold for motor vehicle use in Idaho must be blended with at least 10% by volume agriculturally derived denatured ethanol. Companion legislation will, on April 1, 2010, repeal the current fuel tax deduction for ethanol-blended fuels, resulting in no fiscal impact on state general fund from passage of S1004.	—	Held in Transportation	—
S1012 (-)	(By Sen. Gary Schroeder) "Revolving door" legislation that would prevent public officers and employees - for one year after they leave public office or service - from representing an entity in the private sector before a public agency by which they had been employed.		State Affairs	
S1019 (+)	(By Sen. Gary Schroeder) Clarifies that the Public Charter School Commission is an authorized chartering entity.	Education	Passed 33-0	
S1092 (+)	(By Sen. John Goedde) Clarifies the impact and meaning of Idaho Code section 72-706 (5) as it was amended in 1991, and has been subsequently interpreted by the Idaho Industrial Commission. The amendment removes concerns over the absence of a statute of limitations on medical benefits in denied worker's compensation claims.	Commerce & Human Resources	Passed 33-0	
S1093 (+)	(By Sen. John Goedde) Evaluations of permanent physical impairment in the workers' comp system are to be prepared only by competent individuals, namely qualified physicians. It reinforces the Legislature's intention that impairment evaluations are to be medical evaluations. Nothing in this provision is intended to preclude or limit the Industrial Commission, as trier of fact, from averaging, apportioning, or otherwise weighing impairment ratings prepared by qualified physicians.		Commerce & Human Resources	
S1105 (-)	(By Idaho Association of Counties) Changes responsibility for payment of medical claims for persons who are not legally present in the United States and the State of Idaho. The bill provides that an employer who knowingly and willfully employs a person who is not legally present in the United States and the state of Idaho may be held responsible for the cost of medical care for the person or members of that person's household while the person is employed by the employer. This occurs by creation of a cause of action on behalf of a county or health care provider. The law is clarified to provide that in cases of medical emergency, counties will pay their appropriate share up to the point of stabilization, at which time the individual should be returned to his or her country of origin.	—	Held in Health & Welfare	—
S1123 (-)	(By Sen. Tom Gannon) This bill would require classroom experience prior to granting a teacher certificate.		Education	
S1142 (+)	(By Sen. David Langhorst) Establishes a citizens' Treasure Valley Air Quality Council to develop a Treasure Valley air quality plan; Provides for development of a trust fund; provides for implementation of a regional air quality plan.	Environment, Energy & Technology	Passed 33-1	

S1145 (+)	(By Charter School Commission) This bill allows time for authorized chartering entities to fully review a petition and to work with petitioners to develop the petition for a charter school; establishes a deadline for submission of a public charter school petition so that, if the petition is approved, there is time to notify the State Department of Education, no later than April 1, that the public charter school will be opening and will need funding for the upcoming school year, subject to limits on the number of charter schools opening in a school year.		Education	
SCR 103 (-)	(By Sen. Gary Schroeder) Public Charter Schools Study Authorizes the Legislative Council to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of the public charter school statutes and systems.		State Affairs	
SCR 111 (-)	(By Sens. Bert Marley, Mike Burkett and Gary Schroeder) The purpose of this resolution is to establish a legislative goal for increasing the beginning and average salary levels for Idaho public school teachers, as well as other categories of public school employees. The estimated impact of reaching the average salary included in this resolution is \$180 million.		Education	
SJM 101 (-)	(By Sens. Gary Schroeder & Monte Pearce) Exemption from No Child Left Behind (NCLB) – Memorial to U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and to Idaho Congressional Delegation, demanding an exemption from No Child Left Behind requirements, without loss of funding, for all states that don't have at least one city of 1 million people or more (i.e., Idaho).		Education	
SJM 106 (-)	(By Sens. John Goedde and Gary Schroeder) Urges Congress to support amendments to the No Child Left Behind Act.		Education	
H106 (M)	(By Reps. George Eskridge and Dell Raybould & Sens. Brent Hill and Bart Davis; Ron Williams and Ken Harward) Creates Idaho Energy Resources Authority as an independent body; authorizes the Authority to issue revenue bonds for constructing transmission facilities.	Passed 62-6	Resources & Environment	
H145a (M)	(By Rep. Lawrence Denney) Requires the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to consult with Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) to provide them with a full opportunity to participate in the development, implementation and periodic reviews of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and any supporting sub-basin assessment for their watersheds. This bill also clarifies that WAG membership shall include, where appropriate, representatives of the same categories of interest groups from which Basin Advisory Group members are to be appointed.	Passed 56-14	Resources & Environment	
H179 (M)	(By Rep. Leon Smith) A 1995 federal law (Title 23, US Code, Section 122) allows states to use their apportioned federal-aid funds as a debt-financing instrument known as "GARVEE" (Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicle) Bonds. H179 would allow the Idaho Transportation Board the authority to use federal-aid highway funds to pay the principal, interest, and other costs associated with borrowing by the State to finance specific eligible highway projects, <u>but would require concurrence of the House and Senate Transportation committees.</u> The board may select and designate a transportation project to be funded with bond proceeds and present the proposal to the joint transportation committees. After approval by a majority of both committees, the requirement for "substantial statewide interest" is deemed to have been satisfied and the board may proceed with bonding through the Idaho Housing Finance Association. The Idaho Housing Finance Association (IHFA) is authorized in this legislation to issue the bonds approved by the Board as well as manage the issuance and servicing of the bonds. Local highway jurisdictions may also use GARVEE bonding at their discretion.		Transportation & Defense	

<p>H212 (M)</p>	<p>(By Idaho School Boards Association) Specifies that discussions which take place in an authorized executive session of a public body remain confidential; provides that any civil penalties awarded pursuant to a violation of this Act be deposited into the general fund of the public body concerned; and allows for removal of any public officer who knowingly violates any provision of this Act.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>		
<p>H215 (M)</p>	<p>(By Reps. JoAn Wood & Lenore Barrett and Sen. Don Burtenshaw) Clarifies taxing agricultural property when that land is leased for livestock grazing. The new language defines a bona fide lessee as a for-profit business that grazes livestock that will be sold or used in their business. Additional language puts into statute that any sale or lease of hunting or fishing rights on the property does not change the tax status of the land if it meets the definitions of 63-604, land actively devoted to agriculture.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation</p>		
<p>H249 (M)</p>	<p>(By Idaho State Independent Living Council) H249 would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Strengthen the Human Rights Act by adding disability to the current prohibitions of discrimination in connection with public accommodations (private businesses); * Provide a user friendly, one-stop destination for businesses and people with disabilities to easily access mediation and/or enforcement on a local level, through the Human Rights Commission; * Allow better access to persons with disabilities while recognizing the legitimate needs of Idaho's private businesses; and * Define "readily achievable" as something that a private business can do without much difficulty or expense. <p>The proposed changes add to state law those obligations already applicable to private businesses under federal law. Government entities are not affected by the changes regarding places of public accommodation.</p>	<p>State Affairs</p>		
<p>H258 (M)</p>	<p>(By Reps. Dolores Crow & Mike Moyle) Small Employer Incentive Act of 2005: It provides qualifying businesses with:</p> <p>Income tax credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A 3.75% investment tax credit with a credit limitation of 62.5%. * An additional new jobs tax credit with a graduated scale starting at \$1,000 per job and climbing to \$3,000 per job. * A 2.5% real property improvement tax credit for investment in headquarters or administrative buildings of up to \$125,000 in any one year. <p>A temporary sales tax abatement of 25% for materials used in new headquarters and administrative buildings.</p> <p>To qualify, a company must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Create at least 10 new jobs in Idaho; * Jobs must have a starting annual salary of at least \$50,000 per year, plus benefits; * Invest at least \$100,000 in new headquarters or administrative buildings for each new employee added in Idaho; and * Accomplish this within a five-year period. <p>Existing recapture provisions apply. Conveys authority to county boards of equalization to exempt new plant investment at project site from property taxation.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation</p>		

<p>H259 (M)</p>	<p>(By Gov. Dirk Kempthorne) The "Idaho Small Business Growth Incentive Act of 2005" and the "Idaho "Medium-Sized Business Growth Incentive Act of 2005." Together they provide qualifying businesses with:</p> <p>Income tax credits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A 3.75% investment tax credit with a credit limitation of 62.5%, or a 4.50% investment tax credit with a credit limitation of 75%. * An additional new-jobs tax credit with a graduated scale starting at \$1,000 per job and climbing to \$3,000 per job. * A 2.5% or a 5.0% real property improvement tax credit for investment in headquarters or administrative buildings of up to \$125,000 or \$250,000 in any one year. <p>A temporary sales tax abatement of either 25% or 50% for materials used in new headquarters and administrative buildings.</p> <p>To qualify a company must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Create at least 125 or 250 new jobs in Idaho; * Jobs must have a starting annual salary of at least \$32,240 or \$40,000 per year, plus benefits; * Invest at least \$15 million or \$30 million in new headquarters or administrative buildings; and * Accomplish this within a five-year period. <p>Existing recapture provisions apply.</p> <p>Conveys authority to county boards of equalization to exempt new plant investment at project site from property taxation.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation</p>		
<p>H260 (M)</p>	<p>(By Reps. Dolores Crow, Debbie Field and Micron Technology) This bill exempts from property tax "significant capital investment." The exemption is for the market value of all property of a business or person in excess of \$700,000,000 within a single county. The property tax cap will come into effect if an existing Idaho business, or a new business to the state, makes a significant capital investment which would put its market value over \$700,000,000. The bill is effective Jan. 1, 2005.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation</p>		
<p>H261 (M)</p>	<p>(By Reps. Bruce Newcomb & Mike Moyle and Micron Technology) This bill (1) Provides a new exemption from sales and use taxes for property that is used in research and development activities; (2) Amends the sales and use tax exemption for clean rooms to include those clean rooms used for research and development, and (3) Amends the production exemption to remove property used for research and development as an exclusion from the production exemption. Exempting research and development property from the sales and use tax is intended to serve as an incentive for new jobs and investment from existing Idaho businesses, along with attracting new research and development investment from businesses looking to locate such activities in the state. The bill is effective January 1, 2005. General Fund fiscal impact: About \$6.8-\$7 million, based on past use and projected new investment in research and development activities.</p>	<p>Revenue & Taxation</p>		
<p>S1095 (M)</p>	<p>(By Idaho Mining Association) Amends the Surface Mining Act to transfer responsibility for financial assurance for closure of cyanide facilities from DEQ to the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL). It requires cyanide facilities to submit a closure plan for approval and requires financial assurance to cover 110% of the estimated cost of closure. There would be no upper limit on the amount of financial assurance required. Existing authority for DEQ to regulate all other aspects of a cyanide operation, including water quality impacts, would remain the same as current law.</p>		<p>Resources & Environment</p>	

<p>S1150 (M)</p>	<p>(By Sen. Clint Stennett) Outsourcing of jobs offshore is detrimental to the economy of Idaho and the U.S., and taxpayers should not be expected to support this practice. The state Department of Health and Welfare currently has some phone banks contracted overseas (India). The cost to have those calls answered in the United States would be \$124,700 to the general fund and \$142,900 from federal funds, without taking into account the fiscal benefits of state monies allocated to the U.S. residents who would perform those jobs. S1150 would bar state agencies from contracting with contractors or vendors who perform services offshore that could easily be performed by U.S. workers.</p>		<p>State Affairs</p>	
<p>S1159 (M)</p>	<p>(By Sens. Curt McKenzie and David Langhorst) S1159 would establish a public transportation policy for Idaho that public transportation services are to be provided by local or regional public and private entities. The policy also provides that the state's role is limited to providing public transportation support services by the Idaho Transportation Department, as outlined in the legislation. (Idaho law does not currently provide for a policy on public transportation (vans, buses, and other modes of public conveyance.) This legislation was unanimously recommended by the 2004 Interim Legislative Committee on Public Transportation and Air Quality.</p>		<p>Transportation</p>	
<p>S1161 (M)</p>	<p>(By Sen. Tim Corder & Reps. Bruce Newcomb, Lawrence Denney, Mike Moyle, Julie Ellsworth and Wendy Jaquet) S1161 would require an agency to include in its notice adopting a pending rule the section of the Idaho Code that has occasioned the rulemaking, as well as a fiscal impact description if greater than \$10,000 on the general fund; it also provides that no pending rule or portion of a rule that has a negative fiscal impact on the state general fund greater than \$10,000 shall become final and effective until it has been approved by concurrent resolution. This means both houses would have to approve such a rule in order for the rule to take effect.</p>		<p>State Affairs</p>	