

Highlights of the Legislature's 2015 Interim Committee Work and Outlook for the 2016 Session

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2015 Interim Committees

- Ten Interim Committees:
 - Broadband Access Study Committee
 - Purchasing Laws Interim Committee
 - Tax Working Group
 - Urban Renewal Interim Committee
 - Public Defense Reform Interim Committee
 - Solar Energy Task Force
 - Natural Resources Interim Committee
 - Health Care Task Force
 - Criminal Justice Reinvestment Oversight Committee
 - Idaho Council on Indian Affairs

Broadband Access Study Committee

(HCR 26 (2015))

- Charge: study broadband services for schools and for state agencies
- Draft legislation focuses on broadband services at the school district level (K-12)
 - Repeals statutes regarding the Idaho Education Network and the Idaho Education Network Program and Resource Advisory Council (IPRAC)
 - Intent language includes:
 - State resources to support districts with technical, E-rate, security, contracting and procurement and funding distribution
 - Districts should apply for E-rate funding
 - Current high school broadband program should expand to include K-12

Broadband Access Study Committee

(cont.)

- Establishes the Education Opportunity Network Committee
 - Eight members—including state superintendent and appointees from State Board of Education, Idaho School Board Association and others
- Committee's powers and duties
 - Update broadband parameters
 - Establish reimbursement methodology
 - Distribute appropriated moneys to districts for reimbursement of costs of Internet services

Broadband Access Study Committee

(cont.)

- Committee's powers and duties (cont.)
 - Establish minimum/maximum service levels eligible for reimbursement
 - Provide E-rate application assistance to districts
 - Compile utilization information
 - Comply with state purchasing laws

Purchasing Law Interim Committee

(HCR 23 (2015))

- **Charge:** complete a study of state purchasing laws including the submission and acceptance of bids for goods and services, including construction and to make recommendations for changes therein.
- **Summary of draft legislation (currently 6 drafts)**
 - **(1) Contract oversight**
 - Provides for establishing policies/procedures on contract administration, management and monitoring
 - Annual reports to the Legislature

Purchasing Law Interim Committee

(cont.)

- **Summary of Draft Legislation (cont.)**
 - **(2) Delegation of authority**
 - Clarifies how and to whom authority may be delegated
 - **(3) Ethics in procurement**
 - Defines and prohibits unethical breaches of public trust
 - Provides penalties
 - State employee may be reprimanded or terminated
 - State officer may be impeached
 - Vendor may be disqualified
 - **(4) Multiple awards**
 - Administrator may determine a multiple award is in best interest of state
 - Administrator must justify multiple award

Purchasing Law Interim Committee

(cont.)

- **Summary of Draft Legislation (cont.)**
 - (5) Procurement training
 - All state officers and employees who have authority to procure are required to undergo procurement training
 - Training established by the administrator
 - (6) Reauthorizes committee to continue study of public purchasing

Tax Working Group

(Ad hoc working group)

- **Appointed by the Senate Pro Tem and the Speaker of the House**
 - Encourage Senate/House to develop approaches to tax reform and avoid “late in the session” issues
 - Worked on both short-term and long-term matters
 - Focused on income tax, sales tax and personal property tax
- **Four pieces of draft legislation discussed Group took no formal action:**
 - Reduction of top income tax bracket
 - Increases in exemption amount of personal property taxes
 - Elimination of both the sales tax on groceries and the grocery tax credit

Urban Renewal Interim Committee

(HCR 17 (2015))

- **Charge: study statutes and law governing urban renewal agencies, revenue allocation areas and the Economic Development Act, Chapters 20 and 29, Title 50, Idaho Code.**
- **Committee recommended draft legislation:**
 - **Combine the two urban renewal chapters into a single chapter**
 - **Provide a repository for urban renewal plans with the State Tax Commission; and**
 - **Place a limitation on public buildings constructed with urban renewal funds**

Public Defense Reform Interim Committee (HCR 40 (2014))

- Charge: to study potential approaches to public defense reform—funding issues, municipalities' participation in effective enforcement mechanisms and ensure compliance with system standards/requirements
- Elements of draft legislation:
 - Administration
 - Focused on assisting local administration of public defense by counties

Public Defense Reform Interim Committee (cont.)

- **Oversight**
 - Provide Public Defense Commission with significant rulemaking authority to establish standards that county public defenders must comply with

- **Funding**
 - Authorizes PD Commission to administer grant program
 - Counties must show how they intend to meet standards
 - Request funding to do so

- **Enforcement**
 - Grant program as incentive to comply with indigent defense standards
 - Discussions on this element are ongoing

Solar Energy Task Force

(Ad hoc task force)

- **Task Force met once**
 - **Likely that a bill similar to H 134 (2015) will be introduced**
 - Will include solar electric producers under the identical tax provisions as producers of wind and geothermal energy
 - Will subject solar electricity producers to a tax on the production of electricity in lieu of a property tax

Other Committees...

- **Health Care Task Force** (1999—not found in Idaho Code nor authorized by Concurrent Resolution)
 - Task Force met once to discuss its future. Motion was passed that in the future, health care issues should be studied via the traditional Concurrent Resolution process
- **Natural Resources Interim Committee** (HCR 8 (2015))
 - Met once and heard updates regarding fire suppression costs, Sage Grouse situation, and Eastern Snake Plain aquifer issues
 - No draft legislation considered

Other Committees...

- **Criminal Justice Reinvestment Oversight Committee (67-456)**
 - Committee met once and heard from the Department of Correction and the Commission for Pardons and Parole regarding the ongoing implementation of 2014 Senate Bill 1357
 - No draft legislation considered
- **Idaho Council on Indian Affairs (67-4004)**
 - Council met once and heard updates on a number of matters, including tribal elections, leadership changes and the tribes' role regarding public safety communications

2016 Legislative Session--Prospects

- **Issues—**
 - **Education—continued emphasis on implementing/funding K-12 Task Force recommendations—career ladder, restore operational moneys**
 - **Water issues—more work here; potentially more money here**
 - **Tax related measures—short-term actions; long-term approaches**

Thank You

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2015/interim/interimcommittees.htm>