



CAPITOL REVIEW

A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

AMG : RICK WAITLEY | ROGER BATT | PATXI LARROCEA-PHILLIPS | KYLE ROOKS
55 SW 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 100 MERIDIAN, ID 83642 PH: 208-888-0988 FX: 208-888-4586

A Weekly Legislative Report

Vol. 23 No. 7

03/03/2023

EXPANDED CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield joined the Food Producers of Idaho meeting this week and discussed a new piece of legislation she will be introducing in the House Education Committee today. The intent of this legislation is to expand the capacity of career technical education (CTE) in Idaho middle and high schools (grades 7-12), particularly in rural and remote communities. The legislation is designed to incentivize districts to create programs that prepare students to meet local and regional industry and workforce needs. The legislation has two components. The first component is the Idaho Career Ready Students (ICRS) Program. The Idaho Career Ready Students Program will be created as a capital fund for Idaho public secondary schools. This fund will be established in the State Department of Education and administered by the Idaho Career Ready Students Program Council. The second component updates added-cost funding, which will now have a foundation in Idaho law. By placing added-cost funding in Idaho Code it provides ongoing support for existing CTE programs statewide, support for schools which receive ICRS grants in the coming years and provides a level of transparency for how funds are allocated. The current allocation for secondary CTE funds is insufficient and does not fully fund all approved CTE programs, leaving communities to bridge the gap or forego needed industry and workforce training programs. The fiscal impact for the State of Idaho is \$50 million, which consists of \$45 million to be deposited into an Idaho **Career Ready Students Program Fund** for one-time capital projects and \$5 million in the Division of Career Technical Education budget for added-cost programs, with ongoing appropriations.

WAYNE MEYER STATESMAN AWARD

Representative Wayne Meyer, LIA Class 27 served in the Idaho Legislature from 1995 through 2004 where he was a strong advocate for agriculture issues. Upon his passing his spouse Karleen established the Leadership Idaho Agriculture (LIA) Wayne Meyer Statesman Award

to annually honor an LIA graduate who has a record of public service. Josh Tewalt graduated from LIA with Class 22. Josh grew up on a family dairy outside of Meridian and was active in 4-H and FFA. Josh served as State President of the Idaho FFA Association and through that connection ended up working on staff for two Idaho governors and one US congressman. From 2011 to 2015 Josh was named the Deputy Chief of Prisons and from 2015 to 2017 the agency's administrator of budget and policy. In 2018 Josh was appointed as Director of the Idaho Department of Corrections where he oversees a budget of \$313 million and employes over 2000 correctional professionals. The Department is responsible for the incarceration and community supervision of 25,000 people convicted of felonies. Josh is the former Executive Director of the Idaho Cattle Association. Josh is married to Chanel Tewalt, the new Director of ISDA.

RESTRICTED DRIVER'S LICENSE

S1081 that creates a Restricted Driver's License passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee this past week on a 5-4 vote. S1081 will likely improve Idaho's road safety, ensure more drivers on Idaho roads are covered by insurance, enhance driver education and training for all Idahoans, improve safety of law enforcement officers, reduce the severity and extent of motor vehicle collisions, and generate additional state revenue for Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) programs. If enacted, S1081 makes a Restricted Driver's License available to all persons residing in Idaho. The restricted driver's license would be issued by ITD, or other authorized vendors (including a county if it chooses to opt-in) and would have to be renewed every 2 years at a cost of \$50. **The Restricted Driver's License would be limited to driving purposes only.** The card is not used for voting, to purchase firearms, or to exercise any other rights or privileges reserved for citizens. S1081 will next be heard on the Senate floor. The following legislators have not committed one way or the other regarding S1081. If you know or have a connection with them

please reach out to them to express support for **S1081: Senator Schroeder, Mountain Home; Senator Adams, Nampa; Senator Bernt, Meridian; Senator Den Hartog, Meridian, Senator VanOrden, Pingree; Senator Cook, Idaho Falls; Senator Lent, Idaho Falls and Senator Ricks, Rexburg.** Below is a list of industries supporting the Restricted Driver's License:

Organizational Sponsors

Agriculture - Production

AG Idaho Consulting
 Food Producers of Idaho
 Id. Agricultural Aviation Assoc.
 Id. Dairymen's Assoc.
 Id.-Eastern Oregon Seed Assoc.
 Id. Farm Bureau
 Id. Grain Producer's Assoc.
 Id. Hay and Forage Assoc.
 Id. Mint Growers Assoc.
 Id. Noxious Weed Control Assoc.
 Id. Onion Growers Assoc.
 Idaho - Oregon Fruit & Vegetable Assoc.
 Id. Potato Growers Assoc.
 Id. State Grange
 J.R. Simplot Company
 Magic Valley Quality Milk Producers
 Milk Producers of Idaho
 Snake River Seed Cooperative
 Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Assoc.
 Valley Wide Co-op

Insurance and Finance

AgWest Farm Credit
 Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Co. of Id.
 Idaho Bankers Association

Non-Governmental Organizations

Blaine County Hunger Coalition
 Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry
 Idaho ACLU
 Idaho Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 Idaho Hispanic Foundation
 Mormon Women for Ethical Government
 (Idaho chapter)
 PODER of Idaho
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Boise
 South Central Idaho Hispanic Chamber
 of Commerce

Agriculture – Processing, Manufacturing

Amalgamated Sugar Company
 Chobani
 Darigold
 Far West Agribusiness Association
 Food Northwest
 Glanbia Nutritionals
 Gossner Foods
 High Desert Milk
 Idaho Milk Processors Association
 Idaho Milk Products
 Lactalis American Group
 J.R. Simplot Company
 Northwest Dairy Association
 Southern Idaho Potato Cooperative

Retail

FARE Idaho – Food, Agriculture, Restaura
 Establishments
 Idaho Lodging and Restaurant Associatio
 Idaho Retailers Association
 Northwest Grocery Association

Energy

Intermountain Gas Company

Construction

ESI Construction
 McAlvain Construction

United States. The USDA Farm Service Agency released a report at the end of 2021 that reported that foreign ownership occurs in each state in the United States. The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 as implemented by the regulations, requires all foreign persons holding agricultural land to file a report of such holdings. **Texas has the largest amount of foreign-held U.S. agricultural land with approximately 5.3 million acres.** Maine has the second largest amount of foreign-held agricultural acres, with just over 3.6 million. Colorado has the third largest amount of foreign-held agricultural land with approximately 1.9 million acres. H173 passed out of the House of Representatives **(69-0-1)** this week.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

S1111 is the newest bill drafted that would provide **property tax relief to Idaho homeowners** on their primary residence. The legislation would dedicate 4.5% of annual sales tax revenues to property tax relief, providing a subtraction from each homeowner's total property tax bill. For the year 2023, approximately \$205 million will be appropriated from the General Fund surplus so this relief can begin in the first year of the bill's passage. In addition, this bill makes a change to the property tax reduction program (Circuit Breaker) by increasing the maximum value of a home that qualifies, and by raising applicant income limits so more low-income applicants qualify for the Circuit Breaker program. Additionally, S1111 includes a surplus eliminator provision to appropriate and transfer up to \$150 million per year in Fiscal Years '23, '24, and '25 to the homeowner relief account. S1111 passed out of the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee and was sent to the 14th Order for possible amendments. **NOTE:** In a prior edition of Capitol Review it was noted there are three bills in the House of Representatives that have different approaches to property tax relief. Those bills include H77, H78 and H79. None of the House bills have been given a hearing at this time.

CONDOLENCES TO THE RAYBOULD FAMILY

We have received word that longtime lawmaker **Dell Raybould** has passed away. Raybould served in the Idaho House of Representatives for over a decade and was a passionate advocate for agriculture. The Raybould family are potato farmers from the Rexburg area. **Representative Britt Raybould, Dell's granddaughter,** was elected to the Idaho House of Representatives in 2018 and 2022.

Capitol Review is written to inform the clients of Association Management Group (Waitley Associates, Batt Associates, LP Associates & Agriculture, and Rooks Associates) about activities in the Idaho Legislature and, due to the proprietary nature of the publication, IS NOT for distribution to others **without attribution to AMG.**

S1081 support list reflects the broad need for this legislation in many aspects of society.

FOREIGN LAND AND WATER OWNERSHIP

H173 prohibits a foreign government or foreign government-controlled entity from **purchasing, acquiring, or holding a controlling interest** in agricultural land, water rights, mining claims or mineral rights in the state of Idaho. Foreign government is defined in the proposed legislation to mean a government other than the federal government of the United States or the government of any state, political subdivision of a state, territory, or possession of the