

IV. LEGISLATION – POLICIES – RULES - GUIDELINES

A. Legislation – 2015 Session Recap – Information Item

Bills introduced during the 2015 Legislature that affect the Commission for Libraries or the Idaho library community include:

[HO 90](#) **Open Meeting Law** - Moves current legislation on public records, open meeting, ethics in government and prohibitions against contracts with officers to a new title: Title 74, Transparent and Ethical Government.

Status: Governor signed 3/26/2015. Effective 7/1/2015

[HO 91](#) **Open Meeting Law** - Provides the correct code citations to the revised public records act. (New Title 74).

Status: Governor signed 3/25/2015. Effective 7/1/2015

[HO 167a](#) **Open Meeting Law** - Defines that “labor negotiations” must be held in open meeting, rather than executive session, except in certain circumstances.

Status: Governor signed 4/6/2015. Effective 7/1/2015

[HO 324](#) **Open Meeting Law** - Amends existing law to increase monetary civil penalties for violations of the Open Meeting Law. (A first violation is \$250, with a \$1500 penalty for “knowingly” violating the law. A second violation within a year is subject to a \$2500 penalty.) This legislation leaves intact the process for “curing” the violation without penalty. This bill takes the place of HO 155a, which was passed by both the House and the Senate.

Status: Introduced House Ways and Means, fast-track

Other changes:

[HO 112](#) **Elections** - Amends the Sunshine Act to provide that PACs have the same requirements as political candidates to report contributions over \$1000 between the 7-Day Pre-general report and election day. (This would affect PACs that are established to support or oppose library levy or bond campaigns.)

Status: Governor signed Governor 4/3/2015. Effective 7/1/2015

[HO 213](#) **Public Library Districts** - Provides that the annual meeting of a district library board shall be in June, and that the oath of office for newly elected or re-elected trustees shall be on the first regular meeting following the trustee election.

Status: To Governor 4/1. Effective 7/1/2015

[HO 220](#) **Income Tax Credit** - Extends the increased charitable donation credit that was enacted in 2010. The current language allows for the tax credit to equal 50% of the aggregate amount of charitable contributions, up to 50% of the aggregate amount of charitable contributions, up to 50% of an individual taxpayer's total Idaho income tax liability and a maximum annual amount of \$500 (\$1,000 on a jointly-filed return). For a corporate taxpayer, the amount is limited to 10% of the corporation's total Idaho income tax liability with a maximum annual credit of \$5000.

Status: Governor signed 4/1/2015. Effective 1/1/2015

[HO 250](#) **Appropriation** - ICfL appropriation
Status: Governor signed 3/30/2015. Effective 7/1/2015

[HO 302](#) **Science and Technology** - Adds to existing law to create in the Office of the Governor the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Action Center and the STEM Action Center Board, to provide powers and duties and to provide for reports.
Status: Transmitted to Senate 4/2/2015. Effective 7/1/2015

Of interest:

[HCR 26](#) / [SCR 131](#) **Broadband Access Study Committee** - Stating findings of the Legislature and authorizing the Legislative Council to appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study and make recommendations for broadband services and governance for the State of Idaho and to provide that the committee shall make recommendations regarding minimum Service Level Agreements.
Status: Adopted by House 63-0-7, in Senate State Affairs