

IV. LEGISLATION – POLICIES – RULES - GUIDELINES

A. Legislation – 2016 Session Recap – Information Item

Bills introduced during the 2016 Legislature to date that may affect the Commission for Libraries or the Idaho library community include:

[HO 360](#) **Property Taxes** – Amends existing law to remove an exception to the rule that any taxing district must be formed or organized by the first day of January in order to make a levy for that calendar year.

Status: Governor signed 3/1/2016. Effective: 01/01/2017

[HO 451](#) **Education** – Repeals and adds to existing law regarding reading instruction and intervention.

In support of the legislative goal that every student read at or above grade level by the end of grade 3, this bill sets parameters for school district reading intervention programs. Among other elements, it requires that any student with a reading deficiency will receive an individual reading improvement plan within a specified timeframe. The plan shall be collaboratively developed by school personnel, including school library staff, and the parent(s) or guardian(s). The Commission for Libraries and the Idaho Library Association had representatives on the Governor’s Literacy Committee that developed the recommendation that served as the basis for the bill.

Status: Governor signed 03/23/16. Effective: 07/21/2016

[HO 474](#) **Taxing Districts Budgets** – Amends existing law to require notice and a public hearing prior to a taxing district budgeting a forgone increase.

This bill would require non-school taxing districts that elect to take a foregone property tax increase to hold a hearing in conjunction with their annual budget hearing. These districts will certify by resolution their (1) intent to take a foregone property tax increase, (2) the amount of the foregone property tax increase to be taken and (3) the purpose for which the foregone property tax increase is being budgeted.

Status: Governor signed 03/16/2016. Effective: 07/01/2016

[HO 526](#) **Education** – Repeals, amends and adds to existing law to revise the calculation of the Educational Support Program; to provide for a reading assessment; and to establish provisions regarding literacy intervention programs.

This is another bill reflecting recommendations of the Governor’s Literacy Committee, which had members from the Commission for Libraries and the Idaho Library Association. It requires each school district to establish an extended time literacy intervention program for students who score basic or below on the fall reading screening assessments in grades K-3. It recognizes the importance of digital and print library resources in successful intervention, and the need for appropriate literacy training for paraprofessionals, including library staff, to ensure they have the knowledge necessary to effectively assist students.

Status: Governor signed 03/23/16. Effective: 07/01/2016

[HO 606aa,aaS,aaS](#) **Urban Renewal** – Amends and adds to existing law to revise the makeup of boards and to allow for an elected board; to provide that urban renewal plans be submitted to the State Tax Commission; and to provide the effect of an ordinance to modify an urban renewal plan.

Based partially on the work of an interim Legislative committee, a new section, IC, §50-2905A, specifies that if urban renewal funds are expended **for a municipal building (such as a public library), the project must be approved in an election by at least 60% of the participating voters.**

Status: Governor signed 04/05/2016. Effective: 07/01/2016

[S1290](#) **Education** – Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding college and career advisors and reporting requirements.

Amends IC, §33-1212A, to address only college and career advising and not the broader counseling services that are covered in IC, §33-1212. Additional amendments require school districts to establish a plan as to how they will address college and career advising for their students and provides for a minimum reporting framework. While libraries are not mentioned, the Commission for Libraries is part of a current cross-agency initiative to make college and career advising resources more easily available to students and their parents.

Status: Governor signed 03/16/2016. Effective: 07/01/2016

[S1333](#) **Education** – Adds to existing law to provide the Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant Fund and related provisions.

Repeals of the Idaho Education Network (IEN) legislation (IC 67-5745D & 67-5745E) and adding a new section in IC Chapter 56, Title 33 reflecting the recommendations of the Interim Broadband Access study committee. Public libraries that are E-rate eligible are eligible to apply for matching grants from the BIIG Fund. S1429 appropriates \$2.7 million to the Fund; the maximum grant per entity is 10% of the total cost of the project.

Status: Governor signed 03/24/2016. Effective: 03/24/2016

[S1334](#) **Education** – Repeals, amends and adds to existing law to establish the Education Opportunity Resource Act.

This bill establishes a resource for Idaho's education and library system by providing broadband and related services to students. It states findings and legislative intent in regards to broadband services. It defines the Education Opportunity Resource Committee, its responsibilities, powers and membership (which includes the state librarian). It defines the responsibilities of the Department of Education in distribution of funds, authorization of funding, and technical and other assistance.

Status: Governor signed 03/24/2016. Effective: 07/01/2016

[S 1392](#) **Appropriations - Idaho Commission for Libraries** – Appropriates \$5,525,300 to the Idaho Commission for Libraries for fiscal year 2017; and limits the number of authorized full-time equivalent positions to 37.5.

Status: Governor signed 03/24/2016. Effective: 07/01/2016

[S1429](#) **Appropriations – Education Effort** – Section 1 appropriates \$180,000 from the General Fund to the Commission for Libraries to be expended for trustee and benefit payments from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. Funds shall be used for reimbursement of non E-rate portion of public libraries' Internet service provider charges in accordance with the intent of the Education Opportunity Resource Act, Chapter 56, Title 33, Idaho Code (§1334).

Intent language states that any services using appropriations provided for in Section 1 of this act, including Wi-Fi on personal devices, shall be compliant with Section 33-2741, Idaho Code.

Status: Governor signed 04/04/2016. Effective: 07/01/2016