

## VI. Legislation, Policies, and Guidelines

### A. Legislation – 2026 Session Overview

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The following is a list of legislation passed during the 2026 Idaho Legislative Session that may influence libraries or their operations, as compiled by Public Library Consultant Clay Ritter. Some of these bills will deal with such matters as finance, operations, and personnel. Some of these may not apply specifically to every library, but they are of general interest. Listed will be any obvious potential impact of these items; however, there may be other concerns or other legislation that could impact library operations. This list may not be comprehensive.

**House Bill 561:** Amends Idaho Code 67-2302A and changes what flags are allowed or not allowed over governmental entities in Idaho.

**Possible Impact to Libraries:** Libraries will need to check that they are not flying any flags specifically prohibited in the section. Many libraries have flag poles. I am not aware of any that would be violating this law.

**House Bill 686:** Amends Idaho Code 18-1359 changing the provisions for the hiring of family members in towns of less than 10,000 and changes the restriction around their continued employment and the hiring of certain related individuals in specific circumstances.

**Possible Impact to Libraries:** For city libraries with a population of less than 10,000, this will help if they are related to everyone in town and need to hire someone. This may also help districts, but the mechanism seems unclear outside of a city library application. However, the mechanism should help libraries find qualified employees in certain instances.

**House Bill 715:** Amends Idaho Code 33-2607 and 33-2608 to change the responsibility of hiring and firing of the library director from the board of trustees to BOTH the board of trustees and the city council. The library board will still supervise and evaluate the library director. Hiring and firing will require approval from a majority of both the library board of trustees and the city council.

**Possible Impact to Libraries:** City libraries will need to update their policies and documentation. The board of trustees should also meet with their city council to discuss procedures for the appointment and dismissal of a library director and how the council would like that process to flow, as it may take longer with the requirement of two different legislative bodies being involved.

**House Bill 765:** Amends Idaho Code 63-301A to remove the new construction value from a library district's de-annexed territory in the year following the de-annexation. Amends Idaho Code 63-802 to remove the 8% cap increase to the budget for a library district that has annexed territory.

**Possible Impact to Libraries:** This will specifically allow annexations to happen between library districts without hindering the budget of the annexing district with the cap. This happened when West Bonner annexed some territory from East Bonner. The 8% cap went into effect and West Bonner could not utilize the revenue as they had thought.

**House Bill 894:** Amends Idaho Code 74-203 to add a section stating that no person attending an open public meeting is prohibited from recording the meeting (audio, visual, or by other means). The body may take measures to ensure orderly conduct but shall not prohibit or unreasonably restrict recording. Executive sessions are exempt from this provision.

**Possible Impact to Libraries:** There may need to be some rules of conduct for recording in certain libraries, but there will be very minimal or zero impact from this legislation.

**Senate Bill 1244:** Repeals code sections relating to regional library systems in Title 33 Chapter 26.

**Possible Impact to Libraries:** None. Regional library systems have not existed for many years.

**Senate Bill 1448:** Amends Idaho Code 18-1514, 18-1515, 18-1517B, 18-4105, and 67-6533. Changes the definitions of some of the language in 18-1514 and 18-1517B. In 18-1514: Adds definitions for terms “adolescent minor” and “sexually explicit” and changes the definition of “sexual conduct,” “harmful to minors,” and “material.” In 18-1517B, some language is cleaned up. It adds the term “sexually explicit,” in addition to “harmful to minors” to policy and form requirements.

**Possible Impact to Libraries:** Libraries will need to update their policies and forms to reflect the additional definitions and the term “sexually explicit.” The law will still do the same thing as before.