



# CAPITOL REVIEW

## A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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### A Weekly Legislative Report

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#### END OF SESSION

The start of a legislative session is always so neat and clean. It happens the first Monday closest to January 9. The legislators enter and find their seat, the Senate joins the House and then the Governor is summoned for his State of the State address. This provides a layout of what the Governor would like to accomplish during the legislation session. However, the end of the session is a totally different story. This week proved to live up to the hype. There were hints on Good Friday that both Houses might recess and return home till after Easter. However, they worked till around noon and then returned on Tuesday, taking Monday off for travel following Easter. Then new predictions began. What happened was the House recessed and went home midday Wednesday. The Senate, however, worked into the evening adjourning after 8:00 PM. Both Houses agreed to come back on Wednesday, April 10 to finish up business. There is a certain nervousness as the Primary Election on May 21 gets closer and closer each passing day and being in Boise and not campaigning can create anxiety among legislators.

#### AGENCY SPONSORSHIP BILL AMENDED

H603aaS prohibits state departments from donating and sponsoring non-governmental organizations unless specifically required by law or unless previously approved by the Governor or the chief executive office. This legislation also requires the Division of Financial Management to report all donations and sponsorships to the legislature. Prior to this bill being amended, agriculture was concerned that it would have to adhere to providing a lengthy and comprehensive list every time a spuddy buddy, box of goldfish or box of apples was donated or used to sponsor an event an event. The carveout for commissions helped relieve some of the pressure and concerns small and large agriculture commissions had with the legislation.

#### LARGE TRACTS OF LAND

House Concurrent Resolution 46 would encourage the State of Idaho to look at opportunities to buy large tracts of land as they become available and to keep those lands opportune for timber, grazing and recreation. During the introductory hearing this legislation was portrayed as specifically geared towards recreation due to some of the angst that was created when a private company purchased some large tracts of land in southern Idaho several years ago and closed off access. This is somewhat of a change in philosophy to prompt the state to purchase property and compete with private industry just to maintain access to larger tracts of land. The bill does not appear to be moving this year.

#### GRAIN BIN TAX EXEMPTION

H751 would clarify that machinery including augers, dryers, or fans used within, or attached to a grain bin, are exempt from sales taxes. In the past taxes have been collected on grain bin structures; but accessories that can be removed and moved to other locations without affecting the structural integrity have not. H751 would clarify the intent of the legislation. Equipment used in the production or storage of agriculture should be exempted from tax under the production exemption outlined in Idaho Code. The legislation was sponsored by Representative Doug Pickett and Representative Melissa Durrant.

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