

MINUTES  
**JOINT FINANCE-APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.  
**PLACE:** Room C310  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Senators Co-chairman Keough, Bair, Mortimer, Brackett, Nuxoll, Johnson, Thayn, Guthrie, Schmidt, Lacey  
Representatives Co-chairman Bell, Gibbs, Miller, Youngblood, Burtenshaw, Horman, Malek, Monks, King, Gannon

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Bell** called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM

**PRESENTER:** **Senator Jim Patrick and Representative Neil Anderson, Co-Chairs of the Change in Employee Compensation (CEC)**  
**Committee Recommendations**

The Joint Change in Employee Compensation (CEC) Committee has completed its hearings and deliberations. The committee received many reports, including the statutory requirements of Idaho's compensation system, two updates from the Office of Performance Evaluations, and an explanation from both the Division of Human Resources and the Division of Financial Management on the Governor's recommendation. In addition, the committee heard public testimony and received information on the group healthcare plan and retirement system.

The CEC Committee recognizes that the goal of Idaho's total compensation system for state employees is to fund a competitive salary and benefit package that will attract qualified applicants to the work force, retain employees who have a commitment to public service excellence, motivate employees to maintain a high level of productivity, and reward employees for outstanding performance. The CEC committee spent a great deal of time discussing the impact of the total compensation package for our employees (total compensation package is defined as salary, health benefits, and retirement benefits), and how the compensation package, when measured as a whole, compares to other private and public sectors. The committee also deliberated about how the employee health insurance plan is currently structured. The committee has concerns about the increased cost in health insurance and the appropriations recommended. The House and Senate leadership convene an interim committee to discuss health insurance and total compensation.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT :** On request by **Senator Keough**, and without objection the Change in Employee Compensation Report was accepted by the Budget Committee.

**PRESENTER:** **Colonel Ralph Powell, Director, Idaho State Police**

## Idaho State Police

**Colonel Powell** presented to the Budget Committee a high-level overview of the The Idaho State Police and the challenges and achievements faced by Idaho's Police force. The mission of the ISP is to continue providing public safety across the State of Idaho through law enforcement excellence. The Idaho State Police has been building successful partnerships with not only other law enforcement agencies but other state agencies as well, such as the Military Division, Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), and Health & Welfare's Emergency Medical Services. These agency partnerships have provided statewide cohesion on many projects and proven effective for collaboration with Strategic Planning, Highway Safety and Communications.

The Idaho State Police receives the majority of its funding from dedicated funding sources. These sources include user fees or taxes that are collected to finance a specific service or project. Federal funds received by ISP include those used directly for ISP programs, or passed through to other state and local units of government for other criminal justice activities. The Peace Officers Standards and Training Academy (POST) delivers training and technical assistance to all levels of law enforcement throughout the state, by providing both basic and specialized training programs for all commissioned peace officers, adult and juvenile corrections officers, and dispatchers. POST receives funding from fees collected on issued citations and court fees. Citations and subsequent court fees have decreased and accordingly, so has the revenue.

ISP submitted a Capital Budget Request for FY 2015 to the Division of Public Works for construction of the District IV Combined Facility in Pocatello, which will house Patrol, Investigations, Forensic Lab, and POST. With the completion of this facility, ISP will reach collocation of services in five of the six districts. District 6, located in Idaho Falls, will be the final step to a complete transition.

To conclude **Colonel Powell** briefly spoke on the ISP request for new Communications Center Radio Consoles and the Brands Division Electronic Inspection and Animal Traceability programs. Colonel Powell then stood for questions regarding the Budget Recommendation. [Idaho State Police](#)

## Germane Committee Reports

**PRESENTER:** **Senator Jim Rice, Chairman, Senate Agricultural Affairs**  
**Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee**

**Senator Rice** brought before the committee a brief overview of issues discussed inside the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee. Water resources have been an area of contention, as well as hay price reduction, and commodities out of Portland. International products including yogurt and animal export have also been areas of heavy discussion. Idaho ships a fresher product with more convenience and higher quality in packaging. Senator Rice then stood for questions regarding the Committee's progress.

**PRESENTER: Representative Rich Wills, Chairman, House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee**

**House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee**

**Representative Wills** discussed the significant need for the Idaho State Troopers, Justice Reinvestment, and for the Department of Correction. Many of the individuals that have been re-incarcerated for a minor offenses, are backing up Idaho's court system and costing tax payers a great deal of money regardless of the significant drop in court fees and problem solving courts.

Acknowledgement was made toward **Director Kempf** as he has made serious changes to the Department of Correction and the leadership policies inside the DUI, Veteran, and Drug Courts. Special thanks was also made mention to **Director Sandy Jones** for Pardons, Parole, and Probations. Discussion about harsher punishment for parole violators is ongoing as is the policies on bonds. Special mention was also made to the Juvenile Justice and the teams of individuals who work on behalf Idaho's at-risk youth.

**PRESENTER: Senator Patti Anne Lodge, Chairman, Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee**  
**Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee**

As a result of illness, **Senator Lodge** was absent from committee and the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee did not hear from the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee.

**PRESENTER: Representative Reed DeMordaunt, Chairman, House Education Committee**  
**House Education Committee**

**Representative DeMordaunt** presented to the committee concerns and accomplishments of the House Education Committee. The House Education Committee has accomplished some great things for Education in the State of Idaho. Last year the Career Ladder was implemented and commitments have been made to continue along this path and change the discussion in education to focus on outcomes.

Last year legislation passed regarding the charter school debt reserve, special mention was made to make sure dollars are allocated appropriately. Literacy has jumped in Idaho, then plateaued and the professional development opportunities may experience some change. Currently, 36,000 kids basic and below basic and proficient learn to read from kindergarten through third grade and then read to learn for the rest of their lives. Idaho needs to address the issue of illiteracy and change Idaho's classroom technology.

Professional development, needs to have focused dollars and understanding of how the technology can be used in mastery of competency-based and mastery-based education. Higher education programs at CWI and other community colleges in line with the 60% goal need to capture 5% each year for the next four years. An ambitious goal for the college community, but not an unattainable one. Also, the

Rural School Initiative was created to answer the concerns about how Idaho can do a better job in its rural communities. A strong commitment to education and a strong stewardship over the dollars are most important priorities for the House Education Committee.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, **Chairman Bell** adjourned the committee at 10:24 AM.

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Representative Bell  
Chair

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Christi Cox  
Secretary