

Senate State Affairs Committee
Monday, February 26, 2024 - 8:00 A.M.
TESTIMONY ON: All Subjects

Written Testimony

Name (First & Last)	Subject	Manner Testifying	Representing Company/Organization	City	For / Against	Wish to Testify	District #
Sheila Francis	S 1364	IP	Idaho Brewers United	Boise	For	Y	17

My name is Sheila Francis, Executive Director of Idaho Brewers United, the trade association representing craft breweries in Idaho. I am here today in support of Senate Bill 1364. We have worked on this legislation with our industry partners, the Idaho Beer and Wine Distributors Association and regulatory agency, Alcohol Beverage Control. S1364 simplifies the retail licenses available to breweries and creates a path for breweries who exceed 30,000 barrels of annual production to continue to hold a retail license.

Currently there are two retail licenses available to breweries in Idaho. More than 90% of the licenses issued are the "Brewers Pub" permit. The title doesn't align with industry standards and has been a point of confusion for many. The other license, a brewery license has limited privileges therefore less desirable. Streamlining the licenses will be more efficient for all parties involved.

To provide additional context about creating a path for a brewery to keep their retail privileges after 30,000 barrels, let's look at the history of brewing and this particular law. This law was passed in 1987, when Idaho only had four operating breweries. Upon further research into the legislative history, the sponsors believed the ability to sell products at retail "will stimulate the creation of jobs and investments of both small and large communities [...] and provide tax revenue which would otherwise not be realized." The legislature has great foresight because it's true, jobs have been created and communities of all sizes have been invested in. Based on my best educated guess, 30,000 barrels sounded like an incredible amount that no one would possibly reach. Brewing has evolved, technology, transportation, marketing, etc. have all evolved therefore 30,000 barrels is very possible for some.

This bill creates a path for a brewery who exceeds 30,000 barrels to continue to hold a retail license if they have been established and operating for at least five years and have not had any egregious violations of the law. We want good actors in our industry and we want businesses to be successful. Arbitrary caps on growth are bad in any industry, and artificially deflate the incentive to grow and innovate. This is a good step forward to allow businesses in Idaho to grow and succeed.

Thank you for your consideration and we would appreciate your support.

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Sheila Francis	<i>cont.</i>						17
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Jo Dee Arnold	S 1371	W	One of the People, Self	Nampa	Against	N	23
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I was told that every legislator is bound to not accept campaign contributions during the legislative session. Moving the primary to April will limit the time for campaigning and if the session goes long the Political PAC's, and non-incumbents will have the upper hand because they can raise money during this time; while the people can't give money to each individual incumbent candidate. As it stands we have three dates for the elections in Idaho, if we need to save money let's consolidate elections to two dates. How about one election date in June and one in November with once every four year, Presidential Primary that is at the beginning of March. We don't need to fix this problem this year and should look to rethink this issue next session. Please vote NO.

Quinn Perry	S 1371	W	Idaho School Boards Association	Boise	For	N	19
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The Idaho School Boards Association supports Senate Bill 1371, which proposes to move the May primary election to April. As trustees we believe this change will significantly benefit our state's school districts by providing them with enhanced predictability in budget planning, particularly concerning supplemental levies. Supplemental levies remain a vital source of funding for many districts, allowing them to maintain essential programs and services beyond what state funding alone can provide. However, with the removal of the March election, the current scheduling of primary elections in May creates uncertainty for school districts as they navigate the process of proposing, passing, and implementing supplemental levies into their budgets.

By moving the primary election to April, Senate Bill 1371 would align the election timeline more closely with the budgeting cycle of school districts. This adjustment would enable districts to plan their supplemental levy proposals with greater certainty, knowing the outcome of the election well in advance of finalizing their budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.

Furthermore, the earlier primary election date would afford school districts additional time to communicate with stakeholders, educate voters about the importance of supplemental levies, and garner community support. This increased transparency and engagement are essential for ensuring that the needs of our schools are met and that students receive the resources necessary for their success.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 1371 and take this important step towards improving the financial stability of our schools. Thank you for considering my testimony, and I am available to answer any questions you may have.