

**Guidance for High School Senior Projects:
Researching Idaho Legislative History Online
And Suggested Research Topics From 2004-2015**

Idaho Legislative Reference Library
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Open 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.
(Closed for lunch 12 – 1)

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This document is a brief introduction to researching Idaho legislative history on the legislature's website. Although the majority of legislative history materials from 2003 to the present are available on the website, there are instances in which records are only available in hard copy at the Legislative Research Library. If you want to be exhaustive in your research there is no substitute for coming to the Library.

If you are interested in researching the legislative history of legislation prior to 2003 – legislation not in the attached list - you will also need to come to the Library in person. We have materials from the early 1960s through 2002 that are not available online. Note that prior to 1961 there is extremely little legislative history information other than the text of the law itself. Below you will find materials you will need and possible topics to research.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- 1) **Code section or sections.**
 - 2) **Bill that added the section or sections.**
 - 3) **Access to www.legislature.idaho.gov.**
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1) CODE SECTION

Identify which section of Idaho Code you are interested in researching. The Idaho Code is available online at: <http://legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/TOC/IDStatutesTOC.htm> Click on a Title number to see the chapters within that Title. Click on a Chapter number in order to see the sections within a chapter.

How to read Idaho Code citations:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 18 -8004 | Title, to the left of the dash. |
| 18- 80 04 | Chapter, to the right of the dash. |
| 18-80 04 | Section, last two numbers. |

This is Title 18, Chapter 80, Section 4.

2) BILL

If you choose a section from the attached list of suggested laws, you will already have the bill number that added the sections, which is necessary for you to access related information on the website. If you choose a law not on the list, you will need to come into the Library to do the rest of your research.

3) USING THE WEBSITE

You can find the Idaho Legislature online at www.legislature.idaho.gov. From 2003 forward most legislative history materials, such as Statements of Purpose and committee minutes, are posted on the website.

- All of the legislative history information is organized by the year and bill number.

- To access this, click on “Current & Prior Sessions” from the home page. Screen shots follow on the next page.

- Select the year you need.
- Then select the “Committee Minutes” option.
- Then select the “Committee Minutes Index” option. Once you’ve done that, your screen should look similar to the one below:
- Scroll down until you find the bill that you are interested in.
- By clicking on the link to the bill itself you’ll find:
 - BILL STATUS, a procedural history of the bill. This will include the dates that the bill was signed and became effective and the official sponsors of the bill.
 - BILL TEXT, the actual changes to the law.
 - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, an easier to read wording of what the bill will actually add or change. The contact information at the bottom of the Statement of Purpose may list sponsors and affiliated groups or lobbyists.
- To the right, in the same row as the bill number, are listed the days in which that particular bill was heard in committee. The link for each day will take you to the beginning of that day: you may have to scroll through the day’s minutes to find

discussion on your particular bill. Typically, the first time a bill is heard in committee it is referred to by its “RS” number, which is a draft number assigned before it becomes a bill. The RS number for each bill is in the middle column of every row in the index.

- The committee minutes will offer the best information as to who sponsored the bill, what arguments were made for or against the bill and what groups may have testified in favor or opposition to it.

| House Bills | | |
|-------------|---------|---|
| H0331 | RS24031 | House State Affairs 1-13, 1-26; Senate State Affairs 3-18 |
| H0332 | RS23989 | House Health & Welfare 1-15, 1-26; Senate Commerce & Human Resources 3-1 |
| H0333 | RS23997 | House Health & Welfare 1-15, 1-26; Senate Commerce & Human Resources 3-1 |

SUGGESTED LEGISLATION to research, 2004 – 2015

(choose one)

Warning: Drunk driving and animal cruelty laws are very old (over 100 years old) and therefore there is very little you can find about their original enactments. If you want to research one of these two subjects, we recommend researching a recent change to the drunk driving or animal cruelty laws, not the original versions.

AGRICULTURE

- “Ag Gag” bill: criminalizes secret videotaping of farm operations ([2014 S 1337](#))
- Allows farmers to hire prisoners to work for them ([2014 S 1374](#))

CRIMES

- Assisting a suicide is a felony offense ([2011 SB 1070](#))
- Made it illegal to recruit gang members and supply guns to gangs. ([2006 S 1336](#))
- Makes committing over three violations of animal cruelty a felony crime ([2012 S 1303a](#))
- Created the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit in the Office of the Attorney General ([2013 S 1079](#))
- Allows a victim of human trafficking to petition for the removal of a criminal history record. ([2015 SB1154](#))

DISEASES

- Would have allowed children with intractable seizures to use cannabidiol oil to treat their condition ([2015 SB 1146](#)) (legislature passed it but governor vetoed it)
- Grants a sales tax exemption to a camp for children with cancer ([2014 HB 531](#))

ELECTIONS

- Requires a voter to show photo identification before receiving a ballot at the polls (Voter ID) ([2010 H 496](#))
- Procedures for absentee or early voting ([2013 HB 107](#))

ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY

- Places some restrictions on use of drones ([2013 SB 1134](#))
- Provides that public libraries shall have an internet use policy which provides for a technology protection measure against obscene or pornographic images. ([2011 H 205](#))

GAMBLING

- Authorized historical horse race wagering (instant racing) ([2013 H 220](#))
- Requires that purchases from lottery ticket machines be by currency/coin only ([2013 H 120](#))
- Attempted to repeal historical horse racing (instant racing) ([2015 SB1011](#))

MOTOR VEHICLES

- Amends existing law to provide that texting while driving a motor vehicle shall constitute an infraction. ([2012 SB 1274](#))
- Prohibits grossly negligent operation of boats ([2014 S1274](#))
- Regulation of Transportation Network Companies, such as Uber, in Idaho. ([2015 HB 262](#))

PRIVACY

- Prohibits posting intimate photos of another out of revenge ([2014 H 563](#))
- Creates a secret address program for victims of violence ([2008 HB 501](#))
- Providing how student information may be used by schools ([2014 SB 1372](#))
- States which persons can refuse to provide DNA samples ([2014 SB 1240](#))

STATE GOVERNMENT

- To allow the POW/MIA flag to be flown in front of state buildings ([2011 SB 1071](#))
- State officials and pharmacists not liable for death penalty ([2012 SB 1292](#))
- To prohibit camping (by Occupy Boise or others) at state property and facilities. ([2012 H 380](#))
- Designates the Idaho Giant Salamander as the State Amphibian. ([2015 HB001](#))
- To create child advocacy centers for abused children ([2014 SB 1221](#))

STUDENTS

- To provide college scholarships for children of veterans disabled in war ([2008 SB 1407](#))
- Outlines a juvenile's rights upon arrest ([2013 HB 149](#))
- Allows students to carry and self administer their prescription medications to treat anaphylactic allergic reactions. ([2008 S 1443](#))
- Allows schools to stock epinephrine to treat students with severe allergic reactions ([2014 S1327](#))

- Regarding bullying in schools and teacher training ([2015 HB 246](#))
- Prohibits the use of tanning devices on minors under 14 year of age and requires parental permission for use of tanning devices on minors who are 14 years and older. ([2015 HB177](#))
- Banned tattoos, branding and piercings (except piercings in earlobes) for all children under age 14, and required parental consent for all youth age 14 to 18. ([2004 S 1281](#))
- Changes statute 39-3701 to allow Idahoans age 16, with parental permission, to donate blood. ([2011 S 1074](#))
- Electronic cigarettes (vaping), possession, distribution or use of electronic cigarettes by minors. ([2012 H 405](#))
- Relating to youth athletes and concussions and head injury guidelines ([2012 H 632](#))
- Requires that beginning with the 2016-2017 school year students must pass a civics test, like that taken by immigrants, to qualify for graduation from High School. ([2015 SB1071](#))

WEAPONS

- Allows concealed weapons on college campuses ([2014 S 1254](#))
- Rewrote concealed weapons permit laws ([2015 HB 301](#))
- Prohibits certain persons from possessing tasers or stun guns. ([2008 S 1438](#))
- Weapons in the hands of children under age 10, requirements ([2012 HB 543](#))