

STATE OF IDAHO



Executive Agency Legislation Process

Executive Office of the Governor
Brad Little, GOVERNOR

Division of Financial Management
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May 2025

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INTRODUCTION

All legislation an agency is involved in must be reviewed and approved by the Governor's Office and the Division of Financial Management ("DFM") to determine consistency with gubernatorial policies and to assess the impact on state agencies and the public. All legislation bearing an agency name, or agency employee name, needs to go through the executive agency legislation process.

Following each legislative session, agencies should determine legislative needs to be addressed in the next legislative session. **The agency is required to submit a legislative sponsor for each approved legislative proposal. You must secure that sponsor by December 12. If you do not, the DFM Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Bureau Chief ("Bureau Chief") will not deliver your legislation until such sponsor is secured.**

Agencies use the Executive Agency Legislative System ("EALS") to input their legislative ideas and proposals: <http://apps.dfm.idaho.gov/eals>. To receive a user ID and password for the system, click "To request EALS access."

DFM and the Governor's Office may help develop legislation if needed. The Legislative Services Office ("LSO") may help with technical questions such as formatting.

Elected officials and legislative and judicial branches are exempt from this process.

Questions?

Consult DFM's Executive Agency Legislation Process, found [here](#); or

Contact Lauren Smyser | DFM Regulatory & Legislative Affairs Bureau Chief | Deputy Counsel
lauren.smyser@dfm.idaho.gov | 208-570-3051

2025 - Agency Legislation Priority

Idaho Code Cleanup (House Bill 14 | Idaho Code § 67-3702 et seq.): Governor Little signed House Bill 14 this legislative session, which continues his efforts to make Idaho the least regulated state in the country. This bill requires agencies to report any code chapters, sections, or subsections that the agencies find obsolete, outdated, or unnecessary. All agencies should propose **at least one** Code Cleanup legislation as part of the 2025 EALS process. Other legislation from an agency may be delayed until previous recommendations are addressed.

Please note that our focus on Code Cleanup for FY 2026 means that we are pausing our efforts to move rules to statute via EAL. Should your agency have specific needs to move rules to statute, you will need approval from the Governor's Office and the Division of Financial Management to do so.

To help manage EAL deadlines, we have provided [this guidance](#) to ensure Code Cleanup is prioritized during the 2025 EAL process. DFM and the Governor's Office will also provide a virtual training on May 12, 2025, at 11 AM. Please use the information below to attend the training:

Join from the meeting link

<https://idahogov.webex.com/idahogov/j.php?MTID=m91bd5454b0727bec06a2b68388f6bfba>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2861 956 5199

Meeting password: zmBrixT4A33

Tap to join from a mobile device (attendees only)

[+1-415-655-0001](tel:+14156550001), [28619565199](tel:+14156550001)## US Toll

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

[Global call-in numbers](#)

Join from a video system or application

Dial 28619565199@idahogov.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

DEADLINES

| Activity | Due Date |
|---|-------------------|
| Receipt of EAL Manual | May 1, 2025 |
| Training Session | May 12, 2025 |
| First Day that Agencies may Submit Legislative Ideas | May 16, 2025 |
| Last Day to Meet with Governor's Office Contact and DFM Analyst on Idea Concepts | June 13, 2025 |
| Last Day to Submit Legislative Ideas | June 30, 2025 |
| Last Day to Submit Proposed Legislation, Proposed SOP, and Proposed Fiscal Impact (If Idea is Approved) | August 8, 2025 |
| Last Day to Submit Final Changes to Legislation | October 17, 2025 |
| Last Day to Submit Legislative Sponsor (If Proposed Legislation is Approved) | December 12, 2025 |
| Last Day to Submit Final Statement of Purpose and Fiscal Note (if Proposed Legislation is Approved) | December 19, 2025 |

PROCESS

May - June

Ideas may be submitted any time after **May 16**. If you have legislation that would impact the state General Fund, add regulatory burdens, require new rulemaking, or would likely receive opposition from stakeholders, please schedule a meeting with your Governor's Office contact and DFM analyst **prior to submitting** the legislative idea form. You must meet with them before **June 13**. Otherwise your idea will not be considered.

The deadline for ideas for proposed legislation is **June 30**. Use the online EALS program to input ideas and submit them electronically to DFM.

Ideas for proposed legislation should be reviewed with the Governor's Office, DFM, interested legislators, and affected citizen groups during the summer with assurance given that these are tentative ideas and are only in the form of possible recommendations. Agency legal staff must coordinate with the Attorney General's Office to address possible ramifications and specific issues prior to drafting and introducing legislation.

The later ideas are submitted, the tighter the turnaround will be to get them approved and proposals drafted, so it is best to submit early, if possible.

Agencies should consider and be prepared to answer the following questions about all ideas:

- Why is this legislation necessary? What problem is being addressed?
- Can the problem be addressed through administrative action, executive order, etc., without legislation?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed legislation? Who will benefit?
- What will happen if the proposed legislation is not introduced or does not pass?
- Which interest groups will support or oppose the proposed legislation?
- Have there been or will there be public hearings or other public involvement?
- Who has been involved in drafting the legislation?
- What other state agencies will be impacted? Have those agencies been consulted?
- What will the impact be to local governments?

July - August

DFM and the Governor's Office will notify agencies of approval or disapproval in EALS as ideas are reviewed. Please keep in mind that the sooner ideas are submitted, the sooner you may receive approval and begin drafting proposed legislation.

Once ideas are approved, agencies may begin working on proposed legislation. All proposed legislation, Statements of Purpose and Fiscal Notes for approved ideas must be submitted in EALS by **August 8**. The Governor's Office gives final approval of proposed legislation.

Language should be kept as simple as possible. Legislation will be read by several individuals who must readily come to an agreement on what the legislation specifies. The less complicated and easy to understand the proposed legislation is, the better its chances of passage.

When submitted in EALS, each proposal will include the following:

- **Statement of Purpose & Fiscal Note:**
 - **Statement of Purpose:** a concise statement describing the purpose of the proposed legislation. See page 8 instructions.
 - **Fiscal Note:** an estimate of the amount of revenue or expenditure (for all funds) the legislative proposal would incur if enacted. See page 10-11 for instructions and pages 12-13 for additional information.
- **Legislation Text:** a proposed amendment or addition to Idaho Code. See information beginning on pages 17-21 regarding drafting legislation text.

Submitted proposal language **must** be on [this template](#) to ensure consistency and efficiency of the drafting process. In the fiscal note section, do not include any charts found in the below fiscal note templates. It should only consist of text.

In addition to submitting the above information in EALS, you must email your DFM analyst and the Bureau Chief a separate Statement of Purpose and Fiscal Note via email. **Please use one 1 of the 4 Fiscal Note Templates:**

- **Template 1 – [No fiscal impact](#)**
- **Template 2 – [Revenue and Spending Impact](#)**
- **Template 3 – [Revenue Impact](#)**
- **Template 4 -- [Spending Impact](#)**

August - September

DFM and the Governor's Office review all proposed legislation submitted through EALS. Upon final approval, the Bureau Chief delivers proposals to LSO for bill drafting.

October - November

LSO reviews and drafts each proposal in bill format with an assigned Routing Slip (RS) number (an identification number used by LSO while the document is in the proposal stage). Proposed legislation is identified by this RS number until it is introduced and receives a House or Senate bill number.

The Bureau Chief receives an RS packet from LSO and forwards the agency a copy of the legislation for review. The agency may make changes to the legislation or approve it.

The last day to submit Final Changes to Legislation is **October 17**.

January

The Bureau Chief writes the agency's preferred house of origin and committee on the outside of each RS packet, along with agency contact information. During the first week of the session, all executive branch agency legislation that has been assigned an RS is delivered to the appropriate committee in the House or Senate. Provided that, **the agency secured a legislative sponsor and submitted its final statement of purpose and fiscal note. The Bureau Chief will not deliver your legislation until these items are completed.**

The Bureau Chief will notify you once your legislation has been delivered. Then the agency's designated contact person will be notified by a House or Senate committee secretary to appear before a committee when the proposed legislation is under consideration. If legislation is mistakenly scheduled for introduction in a committee other than the one the agency requested, contact the Bureau Chief, to get the legislation to the correct committee.

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SUBMITTING IDEAS

[Last Day to Submit Legislative Ideas: June 30, 2025]

Ideas for proposed legislation must be submitted to DFM for review. A legislation idea submittal form has been designed to aid in the review process. The form can be accessed by the online EALS program. Please fill it out completely.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://apps.dfm.idaho.gov/eals/EALSM>. The page has a navigation bar with 'Idea', 'Proposal SOP', and 'Reports' tabs. The 'Idea' tab is active. The form is titled 'EALS# STATUS' and includes a 'Modify Profile' link. The 'EALS #' dropdown menu is highlighted with a red box and an arrow pointing to it. The text 'To create an idea, click the down arrow and select "New Idea"' is written in the red box. Below the dropdown menu, there are fields for 'Status:', 'Agency:', 'DFM Analyst:', and 'Special Assist:'. The 'BASIC IDEA INFORMATION' section includes fields for 'Title:', 'Has this or a similar idea been submitted in the past three years?', and 'Please enter the year and bill#'. The 'CONTACTS' section includes fields for 'Contact 1:', 'Contact 2:', 'Phone:', and 'Email:'. The 'COMMENTARY' section includes fields for 'Brief description of legislative idea and how it will "solve the problem":' and 'Fiscal impact of legislative idea:'. At the bottom of the form are buttons for 'Save Idea', 'Delete Idea', and 'Submit Idea'.

This legislation idea submittal form is not a submittal of proposed legislation. The purpose is to give DFM and the Governor's Office an overview of the legislation's impact.

If an agency finds that legislation is necessary during the legislative session, please contact DFM's the Bureau Chief for further guidance.

SUBMITTING PROPOSALS, SOPS, FISCAL NOTES

[Last Day to Submit Proposals, SOPS, and Fiscal Notes: August 8, 2025]

Once an idea has been approved, fill out the Proposal/SOP form and submit the proposed legislation for review. The form can be accessed by the online EALS program. Please fill it out completely.

You will need to upload the proposal, including the SOP and Fiscal Note, using [this template](#). All proposals, Statements of Purpose (SOPs), and Fiscal Notes need to be the final version—not drafts. If necessary, DFM may allow for changes after the submission of this proposal; however, it must be in accordance with the instructions in this manual.

Each agency is required to identify a preferred house of origin and committee. A list of legislative committees can be found on page 16. The Bureau Chief can help determine committee selection if an agency is unsure.

An SOP is a brief description of the purpose of the legislation proposal. It should answer the question, "What is this legislation trying to accomplish?" **The SOP must be written exactly as it will appear on the attachment to the actual bill.**

Please use "Notepad" for copying and pasting text into EALS to avoid formatting errors.

A Fiscal Note is a statement estimating the amount of revenue or expenditure (all funds). It must be written exactly as it will appear on the attachment to the actual bill. A Fiscal Note must be precise and include both ongoing and one-time impacts for all funds. Use of such terms as "minimal" or "undetermined" is inadequate and will be returned to the agency for editing.

If the Fiscal Note states there is no projected fiscal impact, then the Fiscal Note must contain a statement of the reasons why there is no projected fiscal impact.

Multiple sections of code may be included in one proposal with breaks between sections. See “Amending the Code” on page 18 for more information.

Avoid using special characters in legislation file names when attaching proposals in EALS.

Agencies should proofread SOPs and Fiscal Notes for accuracy, typos, and other errors. LSO does not edit SOPs and Fiscal Notes. If SOPs and Fiscal Notes in EALS are returned to an agency for edits, be sure to click “Save” and then “Submit” in EALS when resubmitting edited items.

Be sure to give your agency's fiscal officer all information pertaining to proposed legislation that affects your agency's operating budget (revenue, expenditure, or both). This information must be shown in the agency budget request.

A copy of the SOP and Fiscal Note will be returned to agencies along with the RS legislation for review. When agencies approve the RS document they should also approve the SOP and Fiscal Note. Changes made to the RS may also affect the SOP and Fiscal Note. Remember to update that information if necessary.

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FISCAL NOTE TEMPLATE GUIDANCE

[Last Day to Submit to DFM: August 8, 2025]

Guidance for filling out of the **4 Fiscal Note Templates**, found [here](#).

Please note that these templates are for DFM’s use only but should be used as a basis for developing the required written SOP and Fiscal Note.

Revenue and Spending Impact:

- Every cell should be completed. If the legislation will not have a fiscal impact on a specific fund type or in a specific year, enter “\$0” for that cell.
- If an agency is planning to absorb the cost of the legislation within its existing budget for the entirety of the five-year period, describe this in the narrative of the fiscal note. The agency should then list “\$0” in the cells.
- If the fiscal impact is going to be less than \$10,000, the agency should use Template 1, No Fiscal Impact. As materiality will depend on the size of the agency, please consult with your DFM analyst.
- If the legislation decreases **revenue**, it should be listed as a negative value in red font. For example, a bill that will decrease General Fund revenue by \$1 million should be listed as **(\$1,000,000)**.
- If the legislation increases **revenue**, it should be listed as a positive value in black font. For example, a bill that will increase General Fund revenue by \$1 million should be listed as \$1,000,000.
- If the legislation decreases **spending**, it should be listed as a negative value in red font. For example, a bill that will decrease General Fund spending by \$1 million should be listed as **(\$1,000,000)**.
- If the legislation increases **spending**, it should be listed as a positive value in black font. For example, a bill that will increase General fund spending by \$1 million should be listed as \$1,000,000.

Fiscal Note Features:

- Every cell in the table should be completed.
- Please answer each question with a clear “yes” or “no” and avoid “N/A” or other equivocation.
- In any instance in which the agency answered “yes,” the agency should add a brief (1-2 sentence) description in the final column.

In completing the table, please consider the following:

| Question | Guidance |
|--|---|
| Does the bill have any one-time fiscal impacts? | An example of a one-time impact is the purchase of a desk necessary to support a new FTP. |
| Does the bill call for any delayed implementation? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the bill take effect at once or does it have any components that are implementations in the future that will affect future budget years?• If a component of the bill does not take effect until a later fiscal year, the agency should answer “yes.”• Similarly, if the legislation uses a multi-year phase-in, the agency should answer “yes.” An example is the career ladder in which teacher salaries were systematically increased over a five-year period. |

| | |
|--|---|
| Are there any FTP changes associated with this bill? | If the answer is “yes,” please describe how many and the position types. Are the FTP limited service or ongoing positions? |
| Would any excess spending be automatically drawn from PESF (or any other fund) or added to a deficiency warrant? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies should strive to make fiscal notes as accurate as possible. • Does the agency have the ability to issue deficiency warrants for the service contained in the legislation? • If the agency may not issue deficiency warrants for the content of the legislation, or if this is not an education bill linked to PESF, agencies should answer “no.” |
| Does the bill have any revenue impacts for units of local government? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent with Joint Rule 18, assess if this bill will have any impact of revenue to local units of government? • Will this increase or decrease any funding streams to local governments? |
| Is the fiscal impact accounted for in the agency budget request? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the purposes of the draft August submittal, agencies may answer this question as “yes.” • If the EALS submittal is fully approved, it will be accounted for in the Governor’s budget recommendation. |
| Has the fiscal note been reviewed by DFM? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please work closely with your DFM analyst on the fiscal note. • Once your DFM analyst has reviewed and approved the fiscal note, the DFM analyst will mark this as “yes.” |

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ADDITIONAL FISCAL NOTE GUIDANCE

Idaho Joint Rule 18 of the Idaho Legislature regarding Statement of Purpose and Fiscal Notes

Statement of Purpose and Fiscal Notes — General Provisions. — No bill shall be introduced in either house unless it shall have attached thereto a concise statement of purpose and fiscal note. The contact person for the statement of purpose and fiscal note shall be identified on the document. Statements of purpose and fiscal notes may be combined in the same statement.

Statement of Purpose. — (a) The statement of purpose applies only to a bill as introduced, and does not necessarily reflect any amendment to the bill that may be adopted. All statements of purpose shall be reviewed for compliance with this rule by the committee to which the bill is assigned, excepting that any review is subject to Joint Rule 18(e).

Fiscal Notes. — (b) The fiscal note applies only to a bill as introduced, and does not necessarily reflect any amendment to the bill that may be adopted. The fiscal note shall reasonably contain the proponent's full fiscal year projected increase or decrease in existing or future appropriations, and/or the increase or decrease in revenues by the state or unit(s) of local government. The bill's proponent bears the responsibility to provide a reasonably accurate fiscal note. If the fiscal note states there is no projected fiscal impact, then the fiscal note must contain a statement of the reasons that no fiscal impact is projected. All fiscal notes shall be reviewed for compliance with this rule by the committee to which the bill is assigned, excepting that any compliance review is subject to Joint Rule 18(e). A member of the committee may challenge the sufficiency of a fiscal note at any time prior to the committee's final action on the bill.

Debate. — (c) Any member of either house may debate the sufficiency of a statement of purpose or fiscal note at the time of consideration of the bill.

May be Revised. — (d) Either house may revise the statement of purpose or fiscal note at any time before that house's final action on the bill; however, the revision to the statement of purpose or fiscal note is ministerial only and shall not be done by action of the house.

Not a Statement of Legislative Intent. — (e) Statements of purpose and fiscal notes are mere attachments to the bill and are not voted on. The statement of purpose and fiscal note are not expressions or statements of legislative intent, and are not intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review.

Notice to Others. — (f) Each statement of purpose and fiscal note shall contain this notice: "This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18)."

Additional Information

- The contact person must be included on the SOP and Fiscal Note. The person listed as “Contact 1” in EALS will be the one shown on the SOP and Fiscal Note.
- The Fiscal Note should address the impact to the General Fund in dollar terms, not exclusively in statements of general economic benefit. If there is no impact to the General Fund, the Fiscal Note should state why.
- The Fiscal Note should address the fiscal impact on any other fund or expenditure, not just the General Fund or General Fund programs.
- Joint Rule 18 applies to fiscal impacts on local government as well.
- The Fiscal Note should identify the fiscal impact of at least one full fiscal year (not calendar year), and care should be given to understanding the fiscal impact of legislation that is phased in or has changing requirements over more than one fiscal year.
- Fiscal impacts should be concise. They should not exceed one page and should be included on the same page as the Statement of Purpose if length allows. They should address the total fiscal impact of the legislation, not just the mathematics of the changes, i.e., a fiscal impact that changes the grocery credit from \$155 to \$160 for an estimated 1,900,000 should state: "Fiscal impact to state General Fund revenues is an estimated loss of \$9,500,000 from individual income tax collections for FY 2027," as opposed to a statement like, "An additional credit of \$5 per claimant would benefit Idahoans in that more of their sales taxes paid on groceries would be refunded."
- Fiscal Notes should identify the source of revenues or funds affected, i.e., corporate income tax, cigarette tax, mine license tax, etc., or Department of Commerce Tourism Promotion Fund, etc. Referencing only the fund is often not sufficient to identify the tax or fee source that is impacted.
- If the Fiscal Note states there is no projected fiscal impact, then the Fiscal Note must contain a statement of the reasons that no fiscal impact is projected.
- The committee to which the bill is assigned will review the SOP and Fiscal Note to be sure they meet these requirements.

Sample: Fiscal Note Check List

- ☐ Have you stated the projected increase/decrease for a full fiscal year in existing or future appropriations for the State?
- ☐ Have you stated the projected increase/decrease in revenues for the State?
- ☐ Is there a fiscal impact to units of local governments (cities, counties etc.), whether positive or negative?
 - ☐ If so, have you included the increase or decrease in your FN?
- ☐ If you are indicating there is no fiscal impact to either the State and/or units of local governments, have you explained why? The term “no fiscal impact” is insufficient and does not comply with Joint Rule 18 unless further explanation is provided.

MAKING CHANGES TO PROPOSALS

[Last Day to Submit Changes to Legislation: October 17, 2025]

After LSO processes proposed legislation and assigns it an RS number, DFM receives an RS packet from LSO and forwards it to the agency for review. The agency may make changes to the legislation or approve it.

If changes are desired, the agency should make and send them as quickly as possible. **Changes to EAL should be a rare exception, and rarely done. Please ensure your work with interested stakeholders is done as early in the process as possible.**

If the agency chooses to make changes to the legislation, the RS legislation should be used. Edits need to be written in red ink, scanned, and emailed to DFM. The same is true for the SOP and Fiscal Note. Do not retype the RS, SOP, or Fiscal Note. Both LSO and DFM need to be able to identify where changes have been made to avoid having to retype the entire document.

Agencies need to make sure the SOP and Fiscal Note information is updated (if necessary) when changes are made to an RS.

When changes are made, the process starts over—DFM delivers the proposal to LSO; LSO makes the changes and delivers to DFM; DFM sends to agency for approval. The agency should keep this in mind when making changes and allow for the necessary review and process time.

All interactions with LSO at this point in the process should go through the Bureau Chief for tracking purposes. Contact the Bureau Chief if questions arise.

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WORKING WITH THE LEGISLATURE

Legislation that has been approved through EALS has already been vetted by the Governor's Office with the expectation that agencies present, testify in support of, and work for the passage of these bills. Keep your Governor's Office contact, DFM analyst, and the Bureau Chief informed on meetings and hearings regarding EAL.

Non-executive branch legislation

In some cases, it may be appropriate for agencies to testify on bills that are not executive agency legislation. Prior written (including by email) approval from your Governor's office contact is required in order to testify. **There are no exceptions to this requirement.**

Fiscal Notes

All legislation must bear a fiscal note that explains the impact of the bill on revenue or expenditures. If an agency impacted by legislation disagrees with a fiscal note, please contact your DFM analyst to identify an appropriate course of action.

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES LIST

Senate Committees

Agricultural Affairs
Commerce and Human Resources
Education
Finance*
Health and Welfare
Judiciary and Rules*
Local Government and Taxation
Resources and Environment
State Affairs*
Transportation

House Committees

Agricultural Affairs
Appropriations*
Business
Commerce and Human Resources
Education*
Environment, Energy and Technology
Health and Welfare*
Judiciary, Rules and Administration
Local Government
Resources and Conservation
Revenue and Taxation*
State Affairs*
Transportation and Defense
Ways and Means*

*Privileged Committees

DRAFTING LEGISLATION – No Track Changes

Please refer to LSO's Legislation Drafting Manual for drafting questions: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/research/draftingmanual.pdf>. Below are highlights from the manual.

All legislation should have:

- * A centered heading;
- * An enacting clause;
- * A section or sections.

Writing a title

The title must agree with the body of the bill.

Titles are printed in ALL CAPS unless the section of Code being amended contains a lower-case letter, i.e., 63-302a.

All sections of the Code or Session Laws being amended must be referenced in the title.

Phrases pertaining to one section should be set off by commas, and a semicolon should punctuate the material between sections.

Do not use the double number system, i.e., twenty (20) years in the title.

The word "striking" or "deleting" should be used to indicate material that is to be deleted from the Code.

If there is an effective date, emergency clause, severability, etc., in the body, be sure this information is included in the title.

Formatting Draft Text

All proposed legislation should be drafted consistent with the LSO requirement for strike through and underline formatting. **Do not use track changes.**

Example:

99-9999. Sample Section 1:

(a) When drafting the text of your proposed legislation use ~~strikethrough for any language you are removing.~~ When you are adding language use underlined text. **Do not use any color formatting.**

Material to be deleted should be strike through with a single line through each word (include punctuation which is to be deleted).

Strikethrough of old language should appear **before** underlined new language. Seeing the reverse order can become confusing for LSO and their software.

There should be a new section of the bill for each Code section amended, added, or repealed.

Agencies do not necessarily need to save small amounts of text in the existing language that may be struck out. For example, lots of little portions of strikeout and underlined text in a single sentence or paragraph. It is much easier for DFM, Governor's staff, and LSO to read and translate correctly if a bigger chunk of text is struck out (whole sentences or paragraphs even) and then replaced with a block of new text, even if some of the original language is struck and then bought back. The idea is not to save as much of the existing text as possible, but rather to make legislation that is clearly presented so that people can understand it.

Sometimes it makes more sense to repeal a code section and replace it with new language even if a small amount of the content is the same. Is there more new language than old language? Would it be easier to read if all of the language were new? Repealing and replacing can also make a bill shorter because strikethrough language takes up space on the page.

If making changes to consecutive sections of Idaho Code, be sure that all changes are included in one piece of legislation. An exception to this might be if a certain section contains a controversial fiscal impact that might affect passage of the entire bill.

All legislation should be the final version and should be as clean as possible when it is submitted.

Amending the Code

If an agency plans to amend Idaho Code, sections of Code can be downloaded from the internet at <https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/>. Code is not updated with new language from the previous legislative session until July 1 of each year. Always check the pocket supplement in the back of the Code first to make sure the most recent version of the section is being amended.

If problems with downloading arise, contact Lara Disney at LSO (ldisney@lso.idaho.gov) for help with the download. If the changes are extensive, mark the copy with "Insert 1" (or something similar) and type out the changes on a separate piece of paper labeled "Insert 1." Do not use "track changes" for a major overhaul. If a major overhaul of the existing statute is required, contact LSO for help determining the best way to proceed.

Adding a new section to the Code

If the legislation adds a new section to the existing Code, the number must follow one already in the Code. Do not use a number currently used in the Code.

Proposed legislation must be clear and understandable in and of itself, so that "Legislative Intent" is not necessary.

A heading or subtitle should be provided (in capital letters) for each new Code number.

Using the laws of other states

Another state may have a law similar to what an agency is proposing. A copy of that law may be used as an edit copy. Be sure to incorporate all changes necessary to make the edit conform to Idaho law. Laws from other states often do not follow the same formatting as Idaho law, and those formatting changes need to be made before legislation is submitted.

Phrases used in drafting legislation

- Introductory clauses

For an Act: Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

For a Resolution: Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

For a Senate Joint Memorial: We, your Memorialists, the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Idaho assembled in the _____ Regular Session of the _____ Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

For a House Joint Memorial: We, your Memorialists, the House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Idaho assembled in the _____ Regular Session of the _____ Idaho Legislature, do hereby respectfully represent that:

- To add a section

That Chapter __, Title __, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a new section, to be known and designated as Section __, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

- To amend a section

That Section __, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

- To repeal a section

That Section __, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

- Severability clause

The provisions of this act are hereby declared to be severable and if any provision of this act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this act.

- Effective date

This act shall be in full force and effect on and after _____.

Legislation will become effective July 1 following the legislative session unless an emergency clause or other specification exists in the bill.

- Emergency clause

An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage and approval.

Emergency clauses have been overused; avoid them when possible, but keep them in mind for retroactive action.

- Retroactive effective date clause

An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage and approval, and retroactively to January 1, 2025.

General suggestions

- When drafting legislation, remember that long sentences require greater thought; short ones are more easily read. Use a single word instead of a phrase when the same meaning can be expressed.
- Use punctuation sparingly and only to clarify a thought. The Oxford Comma is not used in legislation.
- Use common words that everyone will understand.
- Statutory usage requires lower case whenever possible. LSO has a standing rule that only the word Idaho is capitalized. Please do not ask LSO to make exceptions to this rule.
- The singular always includes plural.
- The masculine always includes feminine.
- Use the present tense of a verb rather than the future tense. Statutes should speak in the present tense.

Example: "THIS ACT APPLIES" rather than "This act shall apply."

- Avoid using "SUCH," "SAID," "AFORESAID," "DULY," "RESPECTIVELY." These clutter up sentences and do not clarify.
- "SHALL" is used to impose an enforceable duty and is generally mandatory.
- "MAY" is used to grant permission and is usually permissive.
- "IF" is usually better than "WHEREVER."
- "ANY" is usually more accurate than "EVERY."
- Never use "AND/OR." It has no definite meaning.

"AND" is a conjunction. If the legislative intent is that all requirements be fulfilled, where one or more requirements occur, then you should use "and."

"OR" is a disjunction. If the fulfillment of any one of several requirements is sufficient then use of the disjunction "or" makes it clear.

- Spell out figures with letters together with figures (*except in a title*).

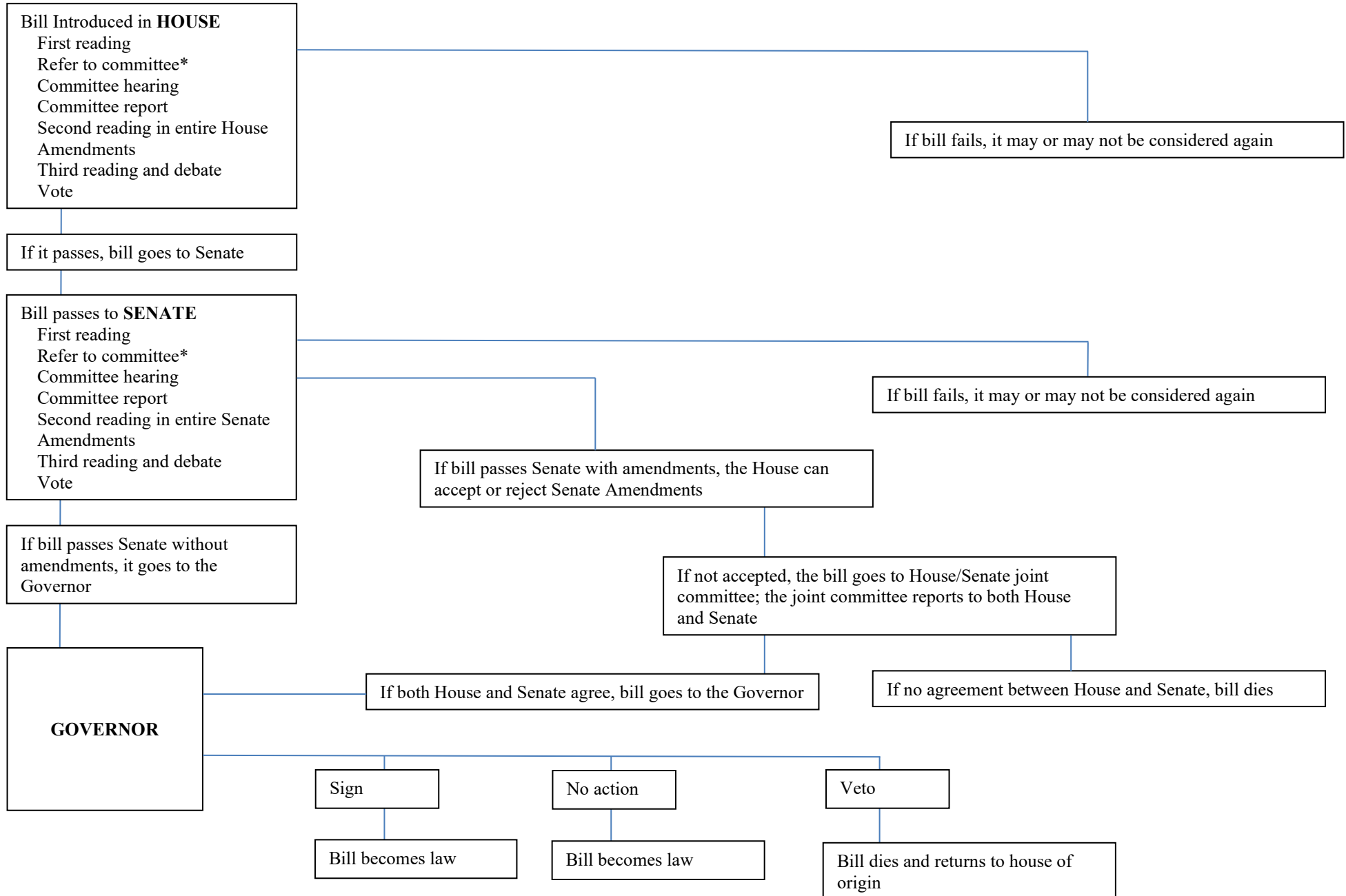
Example: "FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500)."

- The position of a section may change by amendment or revision. Avoid using the words "HEREINAFTER," "HEREINBEFORE," "PRECEDING," "FOLLOWING," "BELOW," and "ABOVE." Instead, refer to a section by its number.
- Use the word "DATE" not "time" when referring to a specific date.

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HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

This example begins with an introduction in the House. A bill introduced in the Senate follows the same steps, but the House and Senate actions are reversed.



*Rule suspension is allowed. A bill does not necessarily have to be referred to committee but may continue on to next reading.