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Week 1 Idaho Legislative Update for January 11-15, 2021

This week brought the start of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature. It began with Idaho Governor Brad Little's State-of-the-State Address. During the address, Governor Little reviewed the previous year, including highlights in investments and the state's efforts to combat the COVID -19 Pandemic. He specifically recognized the heroic efforts of healthcare providers in caring for those directly affected by the virus. He then referenced the year ahead, and his proposed budget for the coming year with priorities for tax relief, transportation and education. Governor Little's address was unique as he gave it from an undisclosed location while House and Senate members listened to the speech remotely from their respective chambers and offices. Also listening remotely were the other constitutional officers and supreme court justices who traditionally attend. For more information from the Governor's State-of-the-State address click [HERE](#).

On Tuesday morning, several bills were introduced in the House State Affairs committee challenging the Governor and the Executive Branch powers. Wednesday, the Senate introduced similar bills to clarify the legislature's role during a state of emergency, limiting the timelines on executive orders, and increasing the legislature's input on uses of federal funds.

This session started with a unique schedule as both chambers moved to introduce and run legislative bills first, holding agency bills and rulemaking for later in the session. While some Chairmen have started on rules and Gubernatorial appointments, others have introduced individual legislator's bills, and yet others have not held a committee hearing. This has created a hybrid approach to doing business in the capitol as the building remains generally locked down for health and safety reasons pertaining to both the expectation of riots and as a result of the pandemic.

We will continue to safely and effectively participate in the process to advocate on your behalf. While this session certainly looks and feels different than ever before, we are confident we can continue to achieve your legislative priorities and protect your interests.

In addition to the comments and tracking of bills we are focusing on, all bills from the session can be tracked [HERE](#). We monitor this daily and will be on the lookout for anything that may be of relevance.

Policy Update

The House Health and Welfare Committee did not meet this week, and the Senate Health and Welfare Committee had only made introductions and committee assignments. Benn Brocksome and Associates will be closely monitoring as committees begin to meet and bills are introduced.



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We will provide you with an opportunity for feedback and input, and help you develop strategy as we examine the merits of proposed legislation.