



# 2025

## Idaho Treasure Valley Chapter Yearly Highlights

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## INTRODUCTION

The Treasure Valley Chapter of the National Association of Benefit and Insurance Professionals represents more than 150 members throughout Treasure Valley. Our membership consists of local agents, producers, company representatives, and other insurance professionals. Our members are dedicated to helping meet the health, financial, and retirement security needs of all Idahoans. We are dedicated to giving our community the tools to learn and understand what benefits are available to them as well as help guide them on their benefits journey.

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

- NABIP's Political Action Committee (NABIP PAC)
  - Highest percentage of Contributing Members (100-175)
- Membership
  - o Over 150 Active Local Members
- Charitable Outreach
  - o Raised \$4,560 for Rays for Rare, during our annual spring charity at TopGolf
  - o Raised \$9,600 for Idaho Crisis & Suicide Hotline, during our annual Golf Tournament
  - o Raised \$21,000 for City Light Home for Women, during our Member Christmas Auction
- Professional Development
  - o Conducted 7 Member Meetings offering CE Credits
  - o Conducted Medicare Summit offering CE Credits
  - o Fall Forum offering CE Credits
- Leading Producers Round Table (LPRT)
  - o Soaring Eagle Recipients
    - Stacie Anthony (3), Marcia Benton (4), Stephanie Hartruft (4), CarrieAnne Kowalczyk-Gonzalez (1)
  - o Lifetime & Qualifying - Soaring Eagle
    - Robert J. Tierney, REBC (19)
  - o Lifetime Emeritus
    - Scott A. Leavitt (27)
- Leadership Academy Graduates
  - o Marcia Benton
- Chapter and State Awards
  - o Platinum Chapter Certification - Treasure Valley (Upgrade from Gold!)
  - o Pacesetter Award for Medium Size Local Chapter - Treasure Valley
  - o Ouida Peterson Community Service Award - Treasure Valley
  - o William F. Flood Public Service Award - Treasure Valley
  - o Local Website Award - Treasure Valley
- Media - Social Media - Communications
  - o <https://nabiptv.org/>
  - o <https://www.facebook.com/people/NABIP-TV/100064598085878/>
  - o <https://twitter.com/NABIPTV>
  - o <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nabip-treasure-valley-chapter-052732158/>
- Legislative - Idaho
  - o Idaho Day on the Hill
  - o Sarah Bettwieser is our Lobbyist
  - o See Week Eleven Session Report after Next Page

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## A YEAR IN REVIEW

### • Membership Meetings and Events

- o April – Annual Spring Charity Event
- o May - New Member Orientation
- o May - Navigating the Shifting Landscape: Key Public Policy & Healthcare Bills Impacting Idaho's Future
- o June - Underwriting the AV Calculator and Benefit Design
- o July - New Member Orientation
- o August - Annual Charity Golf Tournament
- o August - Your Health Idaho Updates
- o September - Medicare Summit
- o September - Fall Forum
- o September - New Member Orientation
- o October - Why Benefits Compliance Matters: Protecting Employers, Employees, and Brokers
- o November - New Member Orientation
- o November - ERISA and Cafeteria Plan Documents, What to know and how to be compliant!
- o November – Commiseration Happy Hour
- o December - Annual Christmas Charity Auction
- o January - New Member Orientation
- o January – Finding Direction of the Roadmap of Challenges with EAP's
- o January – Member Happy Hour
- o February - Day on the Hill
- o February – Legislative Update and Education

### • Community Outreach and Education Events

- o February 27th - Buy Idaho Capitol Show

### • Conferences

- o Capitol Conference in Washington DC
- o Annual Convention in Miami



## WEEK ELEVEN

### High Tensions Racing to Meet Sine Die Target

With March 27<sup>th</sup> now in the rearview, the 2026 legislative session looks like it will make its way into April. With high tensions in the building and legislators working tirelessly to get high-priority legislation through the finish line, we continue find ourselves in the statehouse beyond the Sine Die target date. We anticipate that the legislative session will adjourn some time mid-next week, after reconciling issues in around immigration, EMS and fire funding, and various budgets that have seen revisions – some starting over in the process completely. This week, the legislature has surpassed 1,000 pieces of legislation prepared and Governor Little has signed a whopping 160 bills, with 101 still awaiting signature. The full Week Eleven Progress Report can be found [here](#).

### IDLA Budget Reduction Passes House

This week the House approved [HB 940](#), which would significantly reduce funding for the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance, cutting about \$13.4 million – roughly half of its \$26 million budget – by eliminating support for elementary programs and making various changes to how the online platform is funded. Bill sponsor and House Assistant Majority Leader Doug Pickett (R – LD 27) argued IDLA has expanded beyond its original role of supplementing local school offerings, while some legislators warned the cuts could harm rural districts that rely on online courses and reduce student access. The bill also restricts certain "custom sections", removes state funding for driver's education courses, and requires private and homeschool students to pay full course fees. HB 940 passed the House 48-22 and continues to move forward as part of ongoing debate over education spending as the state continues to address the fluctuating budget deficit.

### House Bill 941 – A Battle of the Branches

[HB 941](#), brought forth by Speaker Mike Moyle (R – LD 10), was killed in the House State Affairs Committee on Thursday. This legislation, opposed by a large number of stakeholders including the business community, transfers the Administrative Rules Coordinator position and its associated duties from the executive branch's Division of Financial Management to the legislative branch's Legislative Services Office. Speaker Moyle noted the transfer is intended to place greater oversight of the administrative rules process within the legislature, consistent with its role as the state's lawmaking body, though there is concern with imbalance of power among the branches of government. The Administrative Rules Coordinator oversees rule-making processes and practices for state agencies and executive offices, largely overseen by the Office of the Governor.

### Eleventh-Hour Library Bill

It wouldn't be March in the Idaho Legislature without a library bill. After days of speculation about an eleventh-hour proposal, one has officially surfaced and is set for a hearing Monday morning. With [HB 710](#) (2024) currently tied up in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Attorney General's Office has made several attempts this session to revise the law in hopes of strengthening its position in court. Earlier efforts, including House Bills [796](#) and [819](#), aimed to make the law more defensible but have failed to advance beyond the House. RS 33841 is set for introduction in the Senate Judiciary & Rules Committee, aiming to respond both to concerns raised by the Ninth Circuit and to a recent ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court regarding Texas's age-verification requirements for adult-content websites. All eyes will be on whether this latest attempt can thread the needle between policy intent and constitutional scrutiny.

### Housing Legislation

[SB 1352](#), requiring cities to allow "starter home subdivisions" with smaller lot sizes and reduced setbacks, and [SB 1354](#), prohibiting cities and homeowners' associations from banning accessory dwelling units and requiring their allowance in residential zones with limited regulatory barriers, have made it through both legislative bodies and now head to the Governor's desk. These bills, part of nearly a dozen affordable housing efforts, are some of the few to make it to the finish line.

Meanwhile, [HB 760](#), which would have expanded eligibility for property tax exemptions for certain nonprofit-owned low-income housing and clarified ownership and affordability requirements tied to those exemptions, did not advance beyond the Senate after passing out of the House 39-28-3. The bill initially failed on a tie vote, with the Lieutenant Governor making one of the only rare tie-breaking votes of this session, effectively killing the legislation 17-18 as one member of the Senate was absent. This action was followed by a motion to reconsider HB 760 the following day, where the Senate again halted the process of the legislation 15-20, killing it for the remainder of the session.

### Healthcare

On Monday, [HB 913](#), a follow-up to a priority included in [HB 345](#) (2025), passed off of the House floor on a 59-9-2 vote. This legislation establishes work and volunteer requirements for able-bodied adults seeking to participate in Idaho's Medicaid program. This legislation also outlines participation standards and directs the Department of Health and Welfare to implement compliance and reporting processes for affected enrollees. HB 913 is intended to align state policy with federal work requirement provisions enacted through passage of HR 1, effective January 1, 2027, eliminating the need for Idaho to continue pursuing a federal waiver to implement similar requirements. HB 913 now awaits action on the Senate floor.

On Thursday, the Senate rejected [SB 1419](#), which would have lowered the income eligibility threshold for Idaho's child care subsidy program and added new fraud-prevention provisions. The bill proposed reducing the cutoff for a family of four from about \$57,750 annually (175% FPL) to roughly \$44,550 (135% FPL), a change that would have removed some families from the program and made it more difficult to qualify. The legislation also would have codified the program in state law, granted additional enforcement authority related to fraud, and included a 2028 sunset date. SB 1419 failed on an 11-23 vote, despite the legislature having already approved funding for the program in the upcoming fiscal year. Following the bill's failure, the associated appropriation bill was pulled back to the budget committee for revision.

Monday, the Joint-Finance Appropriations Committee voted to approve over \$30 million to restore Assertive Community Treatment and Peer Support Services, utilizing funds from the Millennium Fund (\$4.6 million), State-Directed Opioid Settlement (\$5.5 million), and federal funds (\$23 million). These funds are one-time and will not be available after FY 2027 – after which, the General Fund may have to be utilized. The committee also approved \$200,000 for a comprehensive managed care consultant on behalf of the legislature. This serves as a trailer appropriation to [HCR 30](#), brought forth by Health & Welfare Committee Chairs Sen. Julie VanOrden (R – LD 30), and Rep. John Vander Woude (R – LD 22). Both of these actions must be approved by the legislature as a whole for final approval.

A rewritten version of the Health & Human Services budget, [SB 1435](#), passed the Senate, replacing an earlier proposal that lawmakers previously rejected. The revised budget includes approximately \$21 million in additional reductions tied to [HB 863](#) – currently awaiting action by the governor – which cuts Medicaid disability services and is expected to reduce federal match funds by roughly \$44 million. The reduced budget serves as an effort to address revenue concerns and align with broader statewide budget cuts, though some lawmakers have argued the changes go too far and could harm services such as behavioral health and community-based supports. SB 1435 now awaits action on the House floor.

The Medicaid Review Panel met Thursday amid reports that the transition to comprehensive managed care under 2025's HB 345 could be delayed until 2030, due in part to ongoing litigation related to the MMIS contract. Discussion focused on the revised implementation timeline and coordination between DHW and the panel, including how both entities – along with their respective consultants – will collaborate on early planning efforts and begin development of requests for proposals.

### Thank You

As we enter the final days of the 2026 legislative session, we want to express our sincere gratitude to our clients for the trust each of you place in Cygnet. This has been one of our busiest sessions yet, marked by a fast pace and constant movement at the Capitol Building, and we truly appreciate your collaboration and patience throughout. We remain committed to keeping you informed, advocating effectively on your behalf, and finishing the session strong together.

### Nonprofit Highlight

[The World Center for Birds of Prey](#) is a one-of-a-kind conservation and education center that serves as the global headquarters for The Peregrine Fund. Located just outside Boise, it plays a major role in saving endangered raptors – most notably helping bring the peregrine falcon back from the brink of extinction – and continues to lead breeding, research, and reintroduction efforts for endangered species.

### Idaho Fun Fact

Despite being famous for potatoes, Idaho is one of the top producers of mint in the United States, and much of the peppermint oil used in products like gum, toothpaste, and candy can be traced back to farms in the Treasure Valley.