



# CAPITOL REVIEW

## A WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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### A Weekly Legislative Report

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#### RESTRICTED DRIVER LICENSE

The **Restricted Driver License** means supporting the protection of all people in the state of Idaho. A study by OPE reveals that higher rates of licensed drivers lead to safer roads. Allowing Restricted Driver Licenses to extend an opportunity for more drivers to receive proper training before getting behind the wheel, will help assure that all Idahoans can arrive to their destinations safely. Further, the average property damage claim involving an unlicensed driver is **\$22,000** higher than claims involving a licensed driver. Unlicensed drivers also create more burdens on the judicial system as they are **9.5 times** more likely to flee the scene of a fatality accident. The limited requirements will help more people get the legal ability to drive, providing the potential to reduce burdens on the criminal justice system and reduce costs of judicial and law enforcement administration. People looking to get a Restricted Driver License **will need to provide documents that provide their proof of residency in Idaho and proof of person such as a birth certificate**. They will also receive proper training before getting behind the wheel to drive. The **Restricted Driver License will hold current unlicensed drivers, to the same standard as citizens, permanent residents or lawful visitors** by making available the safety training and licensing fees that are currently required. If legislation is passed, an estimated **17,600 driving authorization cards** are expected to be issued to unauthorized immigrants in Idaho within the first 30 months of the program. Carrying a Restricted Driver License is not an endorsement of lawful entry to the United States and cannot be used to exercise rights of citizenship. The federal government maintains its exclusive authority to regulate and enforce immigration. A Restricted Driver License is not a REAL ID, not a commercial driver's license, and would not be eligible for the USA identifier. The Restricted Driver License, with its distinctive features and words of limitation, will not be able to be used for voter registration or as an identity document at the time of voting, and will thereby reduce the potential for election fraud.

#### IDAHO NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL ASSOCIATION

The Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association held their annual conference in Boise during the second week of January and over 200 were in attendance. During the course of the event, three individuals were recognized for their outstanding contribution to vegetation management efforts in Idaho.

**Bethany Muffley-Ahlin** has spent five years with the ISDA. In that time, she has impressed upon many throughout Idaho the importance of Aquatic Weed Control. She has worked effortlessly to teach and present aquatic issues across the state. Bethany has been a main player in the fight against Hydrilla in South Central and Southern Idaho, as well as, teaching many how to correctly remove Hydrilla from streams and ponds. Bethany has considerable knowledge of weed control and is always willing to help in any way.

**Terry Ruby** is a 4th generation Idahoan growing up on a ranch in Hill City Idaho. Terry graduated Camas County High School in May, 1973 and promptly enlisted in the US Army. Upon being Honorably Discharged in 1976 he attended CSI receiving an Associate Degree in Agri-Business. After college, Terry worked for the ISDA as a produce inspector, later as a manager of a fresh pack potato processor and then a short time with the Jerome County Assessor's Office as a farm appraiser. In April 1994 he took a job with Gooding/Jerome County as their Noxious Weed Control Superintendent. Lincoln County joined the group in 1996, forming the **Tri-County Noxious Weed Control Department**. Terry is a lifelong member of the National Ski Patrol and served 40 years as an active patroller at Soldier Mountain retiring in 2016. He currently skis at every opportunity. He is also a member of the American Legion Post 19 in Fairfield. Terry retired from Tri-County Noxious Weed Control in 2022.

**Leon Slichter** was hired full-time for Idaho County Weed Department in 1997. He worked for 23 years, until the time of his death on 3/12/20. During that time,

Leon established himself as a highly dedicated, skilled and educated weed warrior. Initially Leon was tasked with straightforward roadside weed treatment. His career quickly expanded into implementing the county's aerial treatment program. Leon worked directly with numerous landowners throughout the **Salmon River, Snake River and Clearwater Canyons** and the Joseph Plain area. Leon developed plans for dozens of landowners tackling noxious weed species on over 4,000 acres annually. Each May, Leon was on the ground successfully implementing this particularly challenging project. For the remainder of the year Leon was dedicating his time and skills to eradicating high priority noxious weed sites within his beloved Salmon River Canyon and Joseph Plains. In 2019, Leon's eradication efforts saw over **35 sites** of numerous noxious weed species put to final rest as officially eradicated.

### **VACCINES IN FOOD**

S1018 was introduced in the Senate Commerce and Human Resources committee this past Tuesday by Senator Tammy Nichols. S1018 would amend Idaho Code Section 37-115 to **prohibit certain conduct regarding food that contains a vaccine or vaccine material without notification** of the presence of the vaccine or vaccine material in the food. The word food in this chapter is defined as "articles used for food or drink for man or other animals..." Based on how this is written, the section would surely encapsulate the livestock industries and would either change how livestock producers ran businesses or would make it so that cattle and sheep products on shelves in stores would need to have specific labels to disclose that they were given a vaccine. Additionally, it could also have ramifications on any food that is given to an animal pursuant to the definition of food. This could expand the net and create further complications.

### **CENARRUSA DAY ON THE HILL**

The Cenarrusa Day on the Hill event was established as a way to educate and inform FFA members throughout Idaho about public policy. The event attracts FFA students from every corner of Idaho. There were over **360 FFA students and guests** present for the event, including Freida Cenarrusa, widow of Pete Cenarrusa. The NW Agriculture Cooperative Council, represents farmer cooperatives in ID, OR, WA, and MT. Two legislators, were recognized as Friends of the Cooperative Industry. These individuals have demonstrated a dedication and passion towards Idaho agriculture, the people, and the industry.

**Senator Janie Ward Engelking** is a native Idahoan. She was raised on a farm near Marsing with four brothers. Janie and her husband, Kay Engelking, raised five children and enjoy watching her nine grandchildren

thrive. The Senator graduated from Vallivue High School in Caldwell. She attended Whittier College, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Idaho State University, and a Master's Degree from Boise State University. Senator Ward Engelking was a classroom teacher for 33 years and has been a strong voice in advocating for the children of Idaho. The Senator served one term in the Idaho House, before being elected to the Idaho Senate, and is currently serving her 6<sup>th</sup> term. Senator Ward Engelking is the **Minority Caucus Chairman and serves on the Commerce and Human Resources, Education and Finance Committees**. The Senator received Idaho's **2020 Mother of Achievement Award** and is a recipient of the Idaho Education Association Friend of Education Award. She has served on several statewide committees and has worked hard to advance the issues related to quality education in Idaho.

**Representative Lori McCann** is a graduate of Lewiston High and the University of Idaho with a Bachelor of Science in education, along with working on a master's degree. Rep. McCann served as program coordinator and professor in the Paralegal and Legal Assisting program at Lewis Clark State College. For the past 44 years, Rep. McCann has worked alongside her husband to manage his law practice, family corporation (consisting of a cattle ranch, timber operation, and commercial real estate development), and worked in a personal partnership in residential and commercial rentals. McCann is a past member of the Tammany School Board, past president of the Idaho Association of Legal Professionals, current president of the **Foundation Board for Lewis Clark State College**, a Board Member of the Idaho Community Foundation, and a Board Member of Idaho Business for Education. Rep. McCann was appointed by Governor Brad Little to serve in the Idaho legislature and is currently in her second term. She serves as **Vice Chairman of the Education Committee and a member of the House Agricultural Affairs & Commerce and Human Resources Committees**.

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