

2026 Legislation Impacting Idaho Cities

City staff presentation
Meridian City Council
June 2, 2026

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2026 Legislative Session

Bills introduced: 722
Bills passed: 344
Bills impacting cities: 56
Highlighted here: 22

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House Bill 555

Statute:	Adds Idaho Code § 39-7424
Effective:	7/1/2026
Department:	Public Works/Environmental
Summary:	Municipal landfills must pay an annual fee of \$4,000 for IDEQ inspection (formerly handled by health districts).
Impact:	Landfill fees may increase.

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House Bill 721

Statute:	Amends Idaho Code § 39-4113
Effective:	7/1/2026
Departments:	Community Development/Land Development Public Works/Inspections
Summary:	Requires municipal public works departments to complete plan review of public school buildings within 30 days of submission of the plans.
Impact:	Departments will update internal SOPs and training to ensure compliance.

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House Bill 749

Statute:	Amends Idaho Code § 50-222(5)
Effective:	7/1/2026
Departments:	Community Development/Planning, Land Development Public Works/Engineering
Summary:	Involuntarily annexed property owners cannot be required to use City water and sewer. Also: If City construction or installation of infrastructure causes the failure of a well or septic system, City must pay “any costs incurred.”
Impact:	Awareness if situation arises.

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House Bill 561

Statute:	Amends Idaho Code § 67-2303A
Effective:	3/31/2026
Departments:	Public Works/Facilities Maintenance Parks & Recreation
Summary:	Changes exceptions for flags that are allowed to be displayed on city property. Adds civil penalty of \$2,000/day. Empowers attorney general to enforce. →

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House Bill 561, continued

Allowed:

- Official city flags established prior to January 1, 2023
- Other countries' flags "in recognition of historic international and cross-border relations"
- Flag of college or university
- Flags, banners, or pennants displayed on City-owned flagpoles, streetlights, property that are not "political, religious, or ideological in nature."

Impact:

Tree City USA flag, City of Meridian flag, seasonal banners on downtown streetlights and islands are allowed.

House Bill 583

Statute:

Amends Idaho Code §§ 67-6539 and 63-1804

Effective:

7/1/2026

Department:

Community Development/Planning

Summary:

Local regulation of short-term rentals allowed only if the same regulation is imposed on all single-family homes and for those rented via online marketplace or directly by owner. Cities may not impose license, permit, registration.

Impact:

Awareness only.

House Bill 706

Statute:	Amends Idaho Code §§ 67-6539 and 63-1804
Effective:	7/1/2026
Department:	Fire, Community Development/Building
Summary:	Authorizes local amendment of IBC to allow single stairway in apartment buildings that have other safety measures (sprinklers, 2-hour fire rated stair enclosure, pressurized stairwell, fire rated corridors, limited travel distances, comprehensive smoke/fire detection systems).
Impact:	Departments may assess whether local IBC amendment is appropriate.

House Bill 895

Statute:	Adds Idaho Code § 42-252
Effective:	7/1/2026
Department:	Public Works/Engineering, Water Community Development/Planning, Land Development
Summary:	Data centers may not use water for cooling unless supplied by municipal (or water district) system.
Impact:	Departments are assessing whether UDC updates will be necessary.

House Bill 585

Statute: Amends Idaho Code §§ 54-1004A, 54-2626A, 54-5020A
Effective: 7/1/2026
Department: Community Development/Building
Summary: Electrical, plumbing, mechanical inspections must occur within 48 business hours or permit holder may hire third-party inspector and City must refund inspection portion of permit fee. City must also explain delay or refund 10% of fee within 3 days.
Impact: Building Division will update RFPs, contracts, SOPs, and training.

House Bill 800

Statute: Amends Idaho Code §§ 39-4105, 67-6509A
Effective: 7/1/2026
Department: Community Development/Planning
Summary: Multi-dwelling manufactured homes are authorized; changes minimum dimensions for manufactured homes to at least 400sf for single and 800sf for double/multi-dwelling.
Impact: CD is preparing UDC updates.

House Bill 1352

Statute: Adds Idaho Code § 67-6541
Effective: 7/1/2026
Department: Community Development/Planning
Summary: Cities with population of 10,000+ may not ban starter home subdivisions (new single-family home development 4+ acres). →

House Bill 1352, continued

By 2/1/27, must amend comp plan and land use code to:

- Delete minimum lot sizes larger than 1400 for starter home subs
- Delete 15'+ front/rear setbacks and 5'+ side setbacks
- Delete 30'+ lot front widths and 70'+ lot depths
- Allow 12 units/acre density

Building codes, fire codes, water/sewer standards, road access, rights-of-way/easement setbacks still apply.

Impact: CD is preparing UDC updates.

House Bill 1354

Statute:	Amends Idaho Code § 55-3212; adds § 67-6541
Effective:	7/1/2026
Department:	Community Development/Planning
Summary:	Cities with population of 10,000+ may not ban accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in residential zones or impose any regulations more restrictive than for single-family homes. Defines ADU; clarifies that motor homes, campers, RVs, tiny homes on wheels cannot be used as ADUs. Building codes, fire codes, water/sewer regulations, rights-of-way and easement setbacks still apply.→

House Bill 1354, continued

- By 2/1/2024, must amend comp plan and UDC to:
- Allow 1 detached ADU in rear yard
 - Remove off-street parking requirements for ADUs
 - Remove any greater impact/connection fees
 - Remove size and height restrictions if less than 1,000sf
 - Remove owner-occupancy requirements
 - Approve ADUs “as a matter of right”(no discretionary)
 - Remove standards/procedures that discourage ADUs

Impact: CD is preparing UDC updates..

House Bill 500

Statute: Amends Idaho Code §§ 49-615, 49-714, 49-715
Effective: 7/1/2026
Department: Police Department/Patrol
Summary: Clarifies that rules of the road for bicycles also apply to electric-assisted bicycles (e-bikes). Closes loophole exposed by magistrate court finding that e-bikes were not “human-powered vehicles” and dismissing citation against driver who hit an e-bike.
Impact: MPD training will incorporate.

House Bill 533

Statute: Amends Idaho Code § 49-428
Effective: 7/1/2026
Department: Police Department/Patrol
Summary: Removes registration sticker requirement. Only valid license plate and registration required.
Impact: MPD training will incorporate.

House Bill 752

Statute:	Adds Idaho Code § 18-4117
Effective:	7/1/2026
Department:	Police Department
Summary:	Misdemeanor to enter a restroom “designated for use by the opposite biological sex.” Exceptions for: custodial, medical, detainees, declared emergency, coaching, dependents, only single-user restroom “reasonably available,” when user in “dire need.”
Impact:	MPD training will incorporate.

House Bill 1326

Statute:	Adds Title 18, Chapter 71, Idaho Code
Effective:	3/31/2026
Department:	Police Department/Code Enforcement
Summary:	Prohibits government agents from entering “private land not open to the public” without a valid search warrant, exigent circumstances, or consent. Exceptions for county weed abatement but not City weed abatement.
Impact:	MPD training and processes will incorporate.

House Bill 642

Statute:	Amends Idaho Code § 59-1352B, repeals § 59-1361A
Effective:	3/24/2026
Department:	Human Resources
Summary:	Provides surviving spouse/dependents PERSI benefits in the event of a catastrophic injury that results in death of a police officer or firefighter. Employer must pay the first \$100,000 of the benefit.
Impact:	Awareness in event of applicable circumstances.

House Bill 686

Statute:	Amends Idaho Code § 18-1359
Effective:	7/1/2026
Department:	Human Resources
Summary:	Makes it lawful for a government agency to employ relatives of elected officials only if the employee held the position prior to the election.
Impact:	SOP 6.8 (re: nepotism) needs to be amended to add this disqualification. Meridian City Code § 1-14-3 (re: nepotism) is already in compliance.

House Bill 1261

Statute: Amends Idaho Code § 59-1356
Effective: 7/1/2026
Department: Human Resources, City Council, Mayor
Summary: Extends to those appointed to elective office the benefit under which retired PERSI recipient continues receiving PERSI benefits but does not accrue additional service credit for PERSI purposes and does not make contributions to PERSI (nor does employer).
Impact: Awareness in event of applicable circumstances.

House Bill 894

Statute: Amends Idaho Code § 74-203
Effective: 7/1/2026
Department: Clerk’s Office, City Council, Mayor, Commissions
Summary: No person attending a public meeting may be prevented from recording the meeting. Board may “take measures to ensure the orderly conduct” of meetings but may not remove or exclude just for recording. Does not apply to executive sessions.
Impact: Awareness in event of applicable circumstances; recommend updates to meeting rules (Title 1).

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House Bill 1376

Statute:	Adds Idaho Code § 34-1404
Effective:	7/1/2026
Department:	City Clerk's Office
Summary:	Declarations of candidacy are now filed with the county clerk. City Clerk is to review and certify the candidates' eligibility within 48 hours of county clerk's notice of the final list and provide to county clerk a map of the City Council districts by January 1 of every election year.
Impact:	City Clerk will have new role, verifying declarations of candidacy rather than processing as primary office.

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House Bill 967

Statute:	Amends Idaho Code § 23-404
Effective:	7/1/2026
Department:	Finance
Summary:	State liquor account redistribution to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Idaho State Police. Balance remaining: 2. First half to misc. funds. Second half: 3. 85% for ISP career development. Balance remaining: 4. Counties (42.3%), cities (57.7% – down from 60%), 5. 15% to counties to fund magistrate courts.
Impact:	Funds available from state liquor account will decrease.

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House Bill 1350

Statute:	Adds Idaho Code § 63-3643; amends § 67-2361
Effective:	7/1/2026
Department:	Finance
Summary:	Allows sellers to round to the nearest 5 cents in the event of a penny shortage (down if total ends in 1, 2, 6, 7; up if 3, 4, 8, 9). Provides that rounding differences are not fees when charged by state agencies.
Impact:	Finance will advise all points of sale and examine whether to adopt an SOP.