



## James D. Ruchti

Idaho Senator, SD-029 (D)

Website: [legislature.idaho.gov/senate/membership](https://legislature.idaho.gov/senate/membership)

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## 2026 ID Legislative Scorecard: 17%

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

| ✓ Constitutional                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | ✗ Unconstitutional | — Did not Vote | Vote |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|------|
| <b>1. Budget Reduction:</b> Reduces state appropriations for fiscal year 2026 by approximately \$193 million. Estimated Benefit per household: <b>+\$256.00/year.</b><br>Constitutional: <b>Yes</b> · Cast: <b>No</b> · S1331 · Passed 18–17 · 03/02/2026                         |                    |                | ✗    |
| <b>2. Embracing Cloud Seeding:</b> Authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board to oversee cloud-seeding programs.<br>Constitutional: <b>No</b> · Cast: <b>Yes</b> · S1269 · Passed 25–9 · 03/03/2026                                                                                |                    |                | ✗    |
| <b>3. Property Rights:</b> Strengthens private-property rights by prohibiting government employees from entering private land without the property owner's consent or a valid search warrant.<br>Constitutional: <b>Yes</b> · Cast: <b>Yes</b> · S1326 · Passed 30–5 · 03/09/2026 |                    |                | ✓    |
| <b>4. Foreign-law Ban:</b> Prohibits Idaho courts from enforcing or applying foreign laws.<br>Constitutional: <b>Yes</b> · Cast: <b>No</b> · H0602 · Passed 28–6 · 03/24/2026                                                                                                     |                    |                | ✗    |
| <b>5. Embracing Stablecoin:</b> Establishes a legal and regulatory framework for the issuance and use of payment stablecoins in Idaho.<br>Constitutional: <b>No</b> · Cast: <b>Yes</b> · S1423 · Passed 22–13 · 03/27/2026                                                        |                    |                | ✗    |
| <b>6. Ban on Funding Teacher's Unions:</b> Prohibits the use of taxpayer resources to support teacher's unions.<br>Constitutional: <b>Yes</b> · Cast: <b>No</b> · H0516 · Passed 20–14 · 04/01/2026                                                                               |                    |                | ✗    |



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# \$297,626

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of September 2, 2026

# Why do these votes matter?

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## 1. Budget Reduction

S1331, known as the 2026 Idaho Rescissions Act, reduces state appropriations for fiscal year 2026 by approximately \$193 million, including about \$131 million from the General Fund. The measure codifies the governor's previously ordered three-percent budget reductions for most state agencies and adds an additional one-percent cut for many agencies.

The Idaho State Senate passed S1331 on March 2, 2026 by a vote of 18 to 17. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this legislation reduces government spending, limits the growth of state bureaucracy, and encourages fiscal responsibility. State government should live within its means, eliminate unnecessary expenditures, and avoid placing additional burdens on taxpayers.

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## 2. Embracing Cloud Seeding

S1269 revises Idaho's cloud-seeding laws by establishing clearer definitions, authorizing the Idaho Water Resource Board to oversee cloud-seeding programs, requiring public reporting and meetings, and setting standards for the use of state funds and liability protections. The bill would formalize Idaho's role in supporting cloud seeding.

The Idaho State Senate passed S1269 on March 3, 2026 by a vote of 25 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation embraces experimental and largely unaccountable weather-modification practices that pose risks to public health, property, and civil liberties. Federal agencies, corporations, and globalist climate activists are increasingly promoting geoengineering and atmospheric manipulation as tools to advance the false climate-change narrative and justify sweeping controls on energy and human behavior. Lawmakers should protect citizens and taxpayers from unproven experiments that expand government power while offering no guaranteed public benefit.

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## 3. Property Rights

S1326 strengthens private-property rights by prohibiting government employees from entering private land that is not open to the public without the property owner's consent, a valid search warrant, or recognized legal exceptions such as exigent circumstances. The largely bill codifies Fourth Amendment protections for private land.

The Idaho State Senate passed S1326 on March 9, 2026 by a vote of 30 to 5. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this legislation protects private property from warrantless government intrusion, and reinforces the Fourth Amendment's safeguards against unreasonable searches. These protections apply to federal officers as well as state and local officials-and federal domestic law enforcement is not authorized under the Constitution. Requiring federal agents to coordinate with locally accountable law enforcement also helps preserve the independence and authority of local authorities. While the legislation's language is not perfect, it is a step in the right direction. Government employees should not be permitted to enter private land without the owner's consent or a valid warrant.

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## 4. Foreign-law Ban

H602 prohibits Idaho courts from enforcing or applying foreign laws when doing so would violate a person's rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution or the Idaho Constitution. The bill also establishes rules governing choice-of-law provisions, jurisdiction, and forum selection in contracts and legal proceedings to help ensure that foreign law cannot be used to circumvent constitutional protections.

The Idaho State Senate passed H602 on March 24, 2026 by a vote of 28 to 6. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the U.S. Constitution, under Article VI, is the supreme law of the land, and international bodies do not have lawful authority over the American people. Such entities promote policies-including Agenda 2030-that undermine U.S. and state sovereignty. States not only have the right, but the duty to resist and nullify unconstitutional mandates, especially those originating from foreign organizations.

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## 5. Embracing Stablecoin

S1423, known as the Financial Accountability Stablecoin Transaction (FAST) Act, would establish a legal and regulatory framework for the issuance and use of payment stablecoins in Idaho. The bill defines how stablecoins may be authorized, sets standards for issuers, provides regulatory oversight, and allows coordination with other states and federal regulators to facilitate the use of stablecoins in financial transactions.

The Idaho State Senate passed S1423 on March 23, 2026 by a vote of 22 to 13. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands government regulation, surveillance, and control over private financial activity under the guise of regulating stablecoins. By creating a state licensing scheme, imposing compliance requirements, and subjecting issuers to investigations, fees, and enforcement actions, S1423 moves digital assets further under government control and helps normalize the infrastructure for programmable money. This threatens financial privacy and free-market innovation while undermining the Fourth Amendment's protections against unreasonable searches and unwarranted government surveillance.

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## 6. Ban on Funding Teacher's Unions

H516 prohibits the use of taxpayer resources to support teacher's unions. The law bars public school districts and charter schools from using public funds or resources for union activities, including payroll deduction of union dues, paid release time for union business, and the use of certain school resources to support union operations.

The Idaho State Senate passed H516 on April 1, 2026 by a vote of 20 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize the collection of union dues or political payments through government payroll systems. By ending taxpayer-administered payroll deductions for public-employee labor organizations and requiring greater financial transparency, this bill promotes accountability, protects workers from government-facilitated union influence, and helps ensure that public resources are not used to advance private or political interests.