



Industrial Electricians Bills Introduced

Idaho manufacturers and members of the Idaho Workforce Development Council have identified a need to get well-trained electricians into Idaho plants as a key workforce issue in the current economy. Division of Building Safety (DBS) spent the last year getting input from many industry leaders while working to break down the barriers to entry to becoming a licensed industrial electrician. They began with negotiated rulemaking, but quickly realized that, in order to implement some of the recommendations of industry leaders, they would need to go beyond rulemaking and make statutory changes. In what will be a multi-year process, DBS has introduced Senate Bills [1008](#) and [1009](#) to begin addressing this important issue, and IACI supports both bills.

The majority of Idaho high school graduates interested in the industrial electrician industry leave the state due to Idaho's currently onerous barriers to entry into the field. Changes in these two bills will help attract new talent to Idaho facilities and pave the way for rule changes that will keep Idaho students in our state to train and work. Idaho State University currently has excellent programs such as the Advanced Automation and Manufacturing Technology through its College of Technology that train students to work in a manufacturing environment, and these statutory changes will begin resolving this difficult workforce issue.



[Click Here for the Current IACI Bill Tracking List](#)

IACI Continues Work on Priority Issues

As is usually the case, many discussions occur prior to introduction of legislation on critical issues, and more complex issues involve time-consuming work. IACI staff continues such discussions with legislators and members regarding the important tax issue related to **repatriation on foreign income**, which was not addressed in the 2018 session. A bill is also expected soon related to implementation of **Medicaid expansion** per passage of Proposition 2, but specific details are still under consideration. The Court will hold the first hearing on January 29 on the legal case filed against Prop 2. A Legislative Interim Committee has draft legislation related to **Campaign Finance Reform** and the two co-chairs are working out the final details before introducing the bill.



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