



IDAHO OIL & GAS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

History of Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

Updated July 1, 2017

In 1963, the Idaho Legislature passed House Bill 168, the Idaho Oil and Gas Conservation Act. It reads, "There is hereby created an Oil and Gas Conservation Commission of the State of Idaho consisting of the Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology."

Idaho has made efforts to reform its government structure seven times since 1919, generally focusing on improving the efficiency of government by reorganizing the executive branch and examining state expenditures. In the early 1970s, the Idaho Legislature made changes that affected all state agencies including the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (Commission).

In 1973, the Legislative Executive Reorganization Commission recommended restructuring the Idaho executive branch on the heels of the 1972 Constitutional amendment, which limited the number of executive agencies in Idaho to 20. As a result, the Idaho Legislature approved Senate Bill 1302 (Reorganization Act of 1974) which reorganized state government, including the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. It provided "that the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission shall consist of the State Board of Land Commissioners."

The Commission structure was changed in 2013 with the passage of Senate Bill 1049. It created a Commission comprised of five individuals appointed by the Governor.

The current Commission structure was established in 2017 with the passage of House Bill 301 as amended. The Commission now is comprised of the Idaho Department of Lands Director, a county commissioner from a county where oil and gas is being produced or has been produced within the past ten years, and three Governor-appointed technical experts who are each required to have a college degree in geosciences or engineering and at least ten years of experience in the oil and gas industry.

The Administrator of the Oil and Gas Division within the Idaho Department of Lands serves as the secretary to the Commission.