

Idaho Academy of Family Physicians 2018 Legislative Report Week 8 February 26 – March 2

Two things occurred this week that may signal an earlier-than-expected end to the legislative session. Two issues that held prospects for drawn out fights appear to be resolved. The senate passed the \$200 million tax cut bill and the Dual Waiver Health Care bill may be dead for the year. In theory, the session could be concluded by March 23.

UPDATES on previous legislation:

Graduate Medical Education Ten-Year Plan:

UPDATE: This item is scheduled to be addressed by JFAC Committee the first week of March. There remains plenty of behind the scenes work with JFAC members to fund the first year of the plan. [Contact your legislator to show your support.](#)

HB 464: Dual Waiver “Idaho Health Care Plan” may be dead for the year.

UPDATE: After sitting on the House floor’s agenda for two weeks, this bill was returned to the Health and Welfare Committee – presumably because there is not enough support to pass it out of the House. The common presumption is that there is no political path to dealing with this issue – for the fourth year in a row.

[Contact your legislator to voice your opinion.](#)

HB 472: Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP) matching funds

UPDATE: This bill passed out of Senate Health and Welfare Committee on Thursday and awaits action by the full Senate. It has already passed the House. A second, important element to this bill is whether, and how much money JFAC might put into the project.

The bill would allow for the state to provide a financial match to the RPIP program in the amount of \$640,000, subject to an appropriation by the Joint Finance and Appropriation Committee.

HB 465: Medicaid Dental Care

UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate Health and Welfare Committee and awaits action by the full Senate.

This bill would restore preventative dental care services for a certain population of Medicaid recipients. This program was cut during the recessionary years and her goal is to reinstate it. The expected cost for the program is \$1.2 million.

HB 513: Sales and Use Tax Exemption for free clinics

UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate Local Government and Tax committee and still awaiting Senate floor action. It has already passed the House.

HB 353: Immunity for Physician Volunteers

UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate on Thursday and now goes to the Governor for action.

HB 494: Immunization Notices – Signatures Required

UPDATE: This bill passed the House on Monday 54-14. It now awaits action by Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

This legislation is written so that for every immunization given, the provider and the patient or guardian must sign an acknowledgment of receipt of the required immunization notices. **This bill would add additional administrative burdens on physician office staff.**

HB 505: Physical Therapist Dry Needling

UPDATE: This bill passed the House on a 63-4 vote and is awaiting a hearing in the Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

HB 563: Plan First Idaho

UPDATE: This bill passed the House Health and Welfare Committee and awaits action by the full House.

This purpose of this bill is to provide family planning services and supplies to Idaho Women ages 19-44 with a family income at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and are otherwise ineligible for Medicare, Medicaid, or health insurance that covers family planning services. Currently these women are only eligible to enroll in Medicaid if they become pregnant and lose coverage within 60 days of delivery. The goal is to improve access to family planning services to prevent unintended pregnancies and provide preconception planning to improve maternal and birth outcomes. [Contact your legislator to show your support.](#) OR [You may also use this link.](#)

HB 638: Abortion Complications Reporting Act (formerly HB 571)

UPDATE: This bill passed the House on Thursday 56-13. It now goes to Senate Health and Welfare Committee for action.

This bill requires the reporting of complications arising from abortion procedure to be reported to the Department of Health and Welfare. And annual statistical reports to be made public and reported to the legislature.

HB 448: Provides Exemption from Obscenity Laws for Breastfeeding

UPDATE: This bill passed the House on a 66-0 vote and is awaiting a hearing in the Senate.

NEW LEGISLATION

HB 634: Suicide Prevention Programs in Schools

UPDATE: This bill passed the House Education Committee and is going to the full House for a vote. [Show your support and contact your legislator.](#)

HB 657: Felony Battery on Healthcare Providers (formerly HB570)

UPDATE: This bill is waiting for a hearing in the House Judiciary & Rules Committee.

SB 1311: Direct Primary Care Pilot Program

UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate unanimously last week and awaits action by House Health and Welfare Committee.

Senator Steven Thayne's proposal would allow three of Idaho's Health Districts to participate in a pilot program that provides Primary Care services to individuals for a period of ten months IF they also participate in financial literacy classes/programs.

Bills that have reached final disposition:

HB 625: Tax on Opioids

This bill was killed in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee on Friday, March 2.

SB 1255: Tobacco Age of Possession Killed in Senate State Affairs Committee

UPDATE: After a few hours of debate the Senate State Affairs Committee voted 6-3 to Hold this bill in committee. The basic arguments against it ran along the lines of "if we can ask our 18-year-olds to go to war, should we limit their ability to purchase certain products?"

HB 495: Health Care Billing Equity Act HELD in House H & W Committee

UPDATE: This bill was held in Committee after much debate and opposition from health care groups. It is expected that the stakeholders shall get together over the interim to come with a solution.

Rep Luker's bill places strict controls on billing for patients who seek care for certain out of network services.

Bills signed into Law

HB 451: Medical Residency Charitable Tax deduction

This bill was signed by the Governor on March 1.

Unemployment Insurance Tax reduction

UPDATE: Governor Otter signed this bill into law on January 31.

Anyone who pays unemployment insurance taxes will see a reduction in that tax beginning January 1, 2018. It is estimated to reduce employer's unemployment taxes approximately 30% over a three year period beginning in 2018.

If at any point you would like to have more detail on any of these items, beyond these short descriptions, or if you would like us to monitor a piece of legislation that doesn't appear on this list, we would be happy to help.

Ken Burgess
Veritas Advisors, LLP