

Idaho Academy of Family Physicians

2017 Legislative Update - Week 10

The Week Ending March 17, 2017

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New Legislation this week:

Even though the week of March 20 is supposed to be the target adjournment date for the 2017 legislative session, there are still new proposals being introduced. In some cases, these are intended to get done this year, in others it is an effort to introduce a concept for discussion, thought, and setting the stage for next year.

RS25550 “Idaho Accountable Community Care Act” From Rep. John VanderWoude has introduced his version of how to provide health care to those who cannot afford health insurance. The details are still a little murky on this bill as it was only introduced for print today (Friday). But he has stated the intention is to increase the number of family medicine residency slots; create a loan forgiveness program to help community health centers recruit doctors; and direct hospitals to help patients enroll in primary care instead of visiting emergency rooms. The program would be available to people in Idaho’s health coverage gap and also to some people already on Medicaid, and would provide some coordinated care including annual health screenings and diabetes management.

This bill is likely to have a hearing in House Health and Welfare Committee on Monday March 20. My sense is that he is introducing partly out of frustration that nothing else is advancing, partly to create the optics that the Republicans in the House are trying to come up with a solution to the “gap” population, and partly to establish a base of a solution that can be debated and refined through the summer to come back for action in 2018.

Legislation of interest:

S1142 “Health Care Assistance Act” by Senator Hagedorn. As reported last week, this is a version of Rep. Wood’s minor attempt at addressing the “Gap” population. The bill was amended by the Senate this week, although the changes were not substantial. It is now **awaiting action by the full Senate**, who is likely to pass it, BUT given Rep. Wood’s previous experience in the House it is unlikely the House will even address the bill and it will likely be dead once it is transmitted to the House. **As of this morning (3/20), the bill failed in the Senate.**

H250 “Abortion” – This bill would repeal a law, passed in 2015 banning telemed abortions and chemical abortions. The 2015 law, sponsored by Idaho Chooses Life was legally challenged by Planned Parenthood and a judge found it to be unconstitutional. This legislation would repeal that law. **Passed the Senate State Affairs committee this week and awaiting action in the full Senate.**

SCR 113 “Medical residencies” – Senator Chuck Winder introduced a concurrent Resolution encouraging Idaho hospitals to develop and support more medical residencies in the state, including not only primary care and psychiatry but sub-specialty residencies. This resolution passed the Senate, passed House Health and Welfare Committee and **is still awaiting action by the full House.**

H 195 Chiropractic “clinical nutrition” - Would establish a set of standards and educational requirements for a chiropractic certification in clinical nutrition for those who wish to utilize vitamins and minerals, *via intravenous or injectable routes of administration*, in the treatment of their patients. **Passed the Senate on Friday March 17 and now goes to the Governor’s desk.**

H 191 “Pharmacist prescribing authority” This bill expands the types of drugs /situations in which a Pharmacist may “prescribe” a drug. **This bill passed the House unanimously, passed the Senate 33-1 and now goes to the Governor. .**

H81 “Health Care J-1 Visa Waiver Program” - This proposal amends the current Idaho Conrad J-1 Visa Waiver Program (J-1 Program) that allows qualifying Idaho healthcare organizations to apply for the placement of a foreign trained physician in federally-designated shortage areas as a recruitment option of last resort. **Passed the Senate this week 33-0 and is to the Governor.**

H 82 “Sales Tax Exemptions for Free Medical Clinics” - This legislation would provide sales and use tax exemption for sales to or purchased by the ten designated free medical clinics in the state. **Awaiting action in the Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee, which at this point likely means it is dead for the year.**

H 115 “Interstate Medical Licensure Compact” - This legislation adds language authorizing the Board of Medicine to obtain criminal background check information when qualifying physicians for the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. **The bill passed the House floor 66-0-4, Passed Senate 33-0 this week and is to the Governor.**

H128 “Medicaid, Agreements for Services” - This bill directs the Department of Health and Welfare to pursue value-based payment opportunities up to and including full-risk, provider-based managed care for the Medicaid program. The purpose is to improve health care for Medicaid participants at a reduced cost to Idaho taxpayers. **Passed the House 49-18-3 and passed the Senate this week 29-3 and now to the Governor.**

S1060 “Health care/cytomegalovirus” - The purpose of the bill is to provides funding for the Department of Health and Welfare to develop and disseminate educational material ensure the women of Idaho and their doctors have access to the most accurate and up-to-date information available regarding cytomegalovirus (CMV) prevention, infection, and treatment. **Passed the Senate 31-3, passed House 39-10 and has been delivered to the Governor.**

S1081 “Immunization Assessment Board” - This bill resets the Sunset date for the Immunization Assessment Board from 2017 to July 1, 2019. **Passed the Senate 29-6-0, passed the House 45-25 and to the Governor.**

Defeated Legislation or those that will not be moving forward:

S1058 “Telehealth access, cost coverage” - It would allow for costs of telehealth services to be covered in the same manner and to the same extent as if the services were delivered in person. This bill is the idea of Dr. Scott Dunn of Sandpoint and Senator Shawn Keough is sponsoring it. This bill was defeated on the Senate floor 10-24.

H160 “Healthcare Assistance Program” – This program will only cover a limited subgroup of adults and is not comprehensive care. It would be funded by \$10 million from the Idaho Millennium fund. As noted above, Rep. Wood has announced he will not bring this bill forward.

H 91 “Immunization Registry” - This IMA legislation requires that all providers who immunize patients in Idaho shall enter all immunizations, with the exception of adult influenza vaccines, into the Idaho Immunization Reminder Information System (IRIS). The bill failed on the House floor 26-44-0.

S1106 To revise the **legal age for possession or use of tobacco**. This bill would raise the legal age of use/possession/acquiring of tobacco to 21. After a long hearing the committee voted to hold the bill in committee, essentially killing the bill for the year.

S1131 "Relating to Abortion" - This bill would require health care providers to provide patients with a list of locations and clinics that will provide ultrasounds prior to the abortion. The bill is being printed and is assigned to the Senate St Affairs Committee where it is unlikely to get a hearing.

H161 “Medical Lab Science Practitioners” - This bill is to provide licensure for the practice of Medical Laboratory Science. Still awaiting hearing in House Health and Welfare and is unlikely to get a hearing.

Legislation Signed into Law:

H004 to add the prescribing of tobacco cessation products to the practice of pharmacy has now unanimously passed both houses and has been signed into law by the governor.

H005 to enhance the use of the Prescription Monitoring Program for controlled substances and allow greater access to the database by pharmacists. This bill also passed both houses unanimously and has been signed into law by the governor.

H006 Controlled Substances -- This bill aligns Idaho law with recent DEA changes, to provide conformance DEA schedules. Two additional products have been added to the schedule: eluxadoline and brivaracetam. Was signed into law by the governor on February 13th.

If you have questions regarding a piece of legislation or you would like the IAFP to monitor specific legislation that is not currently being monitored, please contact Neva Santos, IAFP Executive Director at Idahoafp@aol.com or (208) 323-1156.

Don't miss the 69th Annual Conference of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians on May 19-21, 2017 and earn up to 13 CME Credits. Spring in McCall blends the perfect mix of winter and summer. Central Idaho is one of the best hiking and mountain biking destinations in the West. McCall is a year-round resort community in Idaho's west central mountains. It embraces the southern shore of the magnificent Payette Lake. The recreational activities abound. Take in the amazing views, enjoy shopping, arts & culture, music & nightlife, hiking and biking, rafting, jet boating, fishing, or off-road riding and more... One look at the towering pines, flowing aspens, picturesque meadows and dramatic snow-capped mountains and you will realize you could only be in breathtaking Idaho.

Log on to the IAFP Web page: <http://idahofamilyphysicians.org/conference/> for more information about activities and events.