

2026 Legislative Session – Week 10 Report

This week saw progress toward the end of the legislative session, with afternoon committees meeting less frequently and both the House and the Senate meeting in the morning and afternoon to start clearing calendars. In Medicaid, lawmakers took up bills that would affect reimbursement, expansion policy, and eligibility verification. In addition, they again considered legislation to create an oversight committee for the Rural Health Transformation Program Grant and how the state should regulate Kratom. Several notable bills are highlighted below.

H863 mandates audited, annual cost surveys for Home and Community Based Services providers, including residential habilitation, personal care services, developmental disability agency services, community-supported employment, and targeted service coordination. The legislation also directs the Department of Health and Welfare to use that data in setting rates and requires providers to spend designated amounts on direct-care wages. H863 was also used as the policy vehicle to cut about \$66 million from Residential Habilitation provider reimbursement rates to meet the Governor’s budget recommendation to cut \$22 million in General Funds from the Medicaid budget.

H913 would require the Department of Health and Welfare to implement Medicaid work and community-engagement requirements by December 31, 2026. It would also require new Medicaid expansion applicants to show three consecutive months of compliance before applying and would direct disenrollment of current expansion enrollees who fail to comply once the system is in place. Idaho has long been interested in implementing Medicaid work requirements, which were mandated via H345 during the 2025 legislative session as well as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed by Congress last July. H913 moves up the timeline for implementing these work requirements.

H916 would create the Idaho Rural Health Transformation Fund and the Rural Health Transformation Committee. In practical terms, it sets up a dedicated state structure to receive and oversee rural health transformation funding. This bill, or something like it, will be one of the last bills passed this session as both the House and Senate have different ideas of committee make-up.

H860 revises Idaho law on parental rights in medical decisions, fixing several key issues with S1329 from the 2024 session. These issues include modifying the definition of emergency to allow for treatment of minors when a parent isn’t readily available, allowing pregnant minors to consent for their own care, allowing minors to contact the Idaho Crisis and Suicide 988 Hotline and receive follow-up contact within 48 hours to reassess their safety, allowing for blanket parental consent forms for treatment of their children, allowing minors who have been subjected to physical or sexual assault to be treated when the parent is suspected to be the perpetrator, and allowing infants born to drug-addicted mothers to be treated without a court order.



Looking ahead to next week, expect more budget bills to come out of JFAC and make their way through the legislative process. Despite the fact that many legislators are eager to wrap up the session to get home to campaign for the primary election, the House Ways & Means Committee and Senate State Affairs Committee (the “leadership committees” in both Chambers) are still introducing bills at a steady pace, creating more legislation for consideration. Next Friday is the target adjournment date but, with a healthy amount of work still left for both chambers, there is next to no chance that deadline will be met.