**Idaho Academy of Family Physicians**

**2019 Legislative Report**

**Week 3, January 21 – 25**

**More rules-approval and “Education Week” at the Capitol:**

This week was education week at the capitol in which overviews and budget hearings in the budget committee (JFAC) focused on the K-12 education system, the colleges, universities, and Board of Education, all of whom made presentations to the budget committee.

**Medical Education Programs Budget Presentations:**

Of particular interest to the IAFP is the presentations of the medical education “pipeline” programs and continued progress of the ten-year expansion plan for Graduate Medical Education in Idaho.  Collectively, Drs. Barinaga (WWAMI), Seegmiller (WWAMI), Chan (University of Utah), Epperly (Family Medicine Residencies), Hagman (Internal Medicine Residencies), Stutts (Bingham Internal Medicine Residency), and Aaland (Psychiatry Residency), delivered well-thought-out and well-organized presentations that served to educate and remind legislators how the medical education system works and why it is important to keep growing the system. (The lesson here is that we should never assume legislators really understand the process or the programs, and they need to be reminded at every chance – in simple terms).

It seems the JFAC committee is generally bought in to their investment in WWAMI and University of Utah medical school seats (with some gradual expansion), and they are also now invested in the concept of slowly expanding the residency programs within the state (this is year two of the ten-year expansion plan). This is a credit to all those who have put the thoughtful work and careful roll-out of the expansion plan.  Legislators are finally understanding that there is a physician shortage in Idaho and they need to help do something about it.

On the whole, the budget requests by the various programs were slightly more than Governor Little’s requests for those programs, but in the big picture not too drastically different.  The committee will now do the hard work of putting actual budget numbers to the requests, while balancing all the other agency requests and ensuring the overall state budget is balanced at the end of the process.

**Big Picture – Medicaid expansion implementation:**

There was an educational presentation in the capitol this week to inform legislators about the passage of Proposition 2 and the issues surrounding implementation.  The anticipated budget impact of the first six months of implementation is around $20 million.  House Health and Welfare Chairman Dr. Fred Wood is apparently working on draft legislation, although it is expected this will be the most controversial and difficult issue to resolve this session, and likely will be one of the final ones to be resolved.

**Health and Welfare Committee actions**

Board of Medicine rules

The respective Health and Welfare Committees have reviewed and accepted some broad changes in how the Board of Medicine operates.  In response to Governor Little’s request that all agencies streamline and eliminate unnecessary rules and regulations, the Board of Medicine engaged in a complete review and re-write of their documents.   The result being a consolidation and then elimination of a few chapters of their rules, thus eliminating over 20% of unnecessary or petty regulations that takes significant staff time.

**Status of previous legislation:**

[**HB 9 – Medical Practice Act**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/legislation/H0009/) – by State Board of Medicine:

*Status: Passed out of House Health and Welfare committee Friday morning January 25, goes to House floor for action.*

This is a 28-page bill being billed as a housekeeping or cleanup bill by the Board of Medicine.  It updates and modernizes provisions of the Medical Practice Act.  Among other provisions, it also would add a physician assistant to the Board of Medicine and adds a physician assistant and a public member to the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee.  It also removes the requirement that medical students be registered with the Board.

[**HB 10 – Pharmacy Practice Act**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/legislation/H0010/) – by State Board of Pharmacy

*Status: Awaiting full hearing in House Health and Welfare*

This is an 18-page bill updating and modernizing the Pharmacy Practice Act.  It also establishes a multistate pharmacy license to increase portability and mobility of practice across state lines.

[**HB11 – Uniform Controlled Substances**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/legislation/H0011/)**Act** – by Board of Pharmacy

*Status: Awaiting full hearing in House Health and Welfare*

Aligns DEA scheduling decisions by including synthetic opioids in Schedule I.

**New Legislation Introduced this week:**

[**HB29 – Abortion Complications Reporting**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/legislation/H0029/) – by Rep. Greg Chaney

*Status:  Introduced in House State Affairs Committee*

This bill makes some wording and technical changes to sections of this law that was passed last year.  It appears that the law is not substantially changed from current.

Legislation will start to emerge more rapidly beginning next week.

We will continue to track and make you aware of any legislation of interest to the IAFP.

Ken Burgess

Veritas Advisors, LLP