**Idaho Academy of Family Physicians**

**2019 Legislative Report**

**Week 4, January 28 – February 1**

**Relatively quiet week on health issues – with one exception:**

As the committees wrap up their work on review and approval of rules, the flow of new legislation has not yet begun in earnest.  On the health issue front, it was a fairly quiet week.  The House Health and Welfare committee, which typically meets every day, did not meet on Tuesday or Wednesday.

One of the more controversial matters revolved around a rule approval brought by the Department of Health and Welfare requiring children to get a meningococcal vaccine booster before entering the 12th grade of school.  This issue brought a number of anti-vaccine activists to the committees in an effort to defeat the rule.  Ultimately the rule was approved on a 7-6 vote in the House committee and a 5-4 vote in the Senate committee.  **We are expecting more legislation designed to give more parents the opportunity to opt-out of vaccinations for their children.**

**Medicaid expansion implementation:**

Arguments were made before the Idaho Supreme Court this week regarding the constitutionality of the voter-passed Medicaid expansion initiative.  The Idaho Freedom Foundation filed suit to get the initiative nullified. The Idaho Secretary of State and the Idaho Medical Association attorneys argued in favor of the initiative.  It is unclear when the Court will issue a decision on the case, and the timing will likely affect when and what the legislature may do on the matter.  But behind the scenes drafting of legislation is commencing.

**Health and Welfare Committee actions**

On the Horizon: The Idaho Medical Association is introducing a maternal mortality review bill in the House Health and Welfare Committee on Monday this week.  The bill would create a Maternal Mortality Review Committee, which is a multi-disciplinary peer-review committee to collect information, determine whether a death was preventable and, if so, plot a strategy for educating health care workers to address the issue.  The United States has a higher maternal mortality rate than other countries such as the UK, Germany, France, and Canada.

**Status of previous legislation:**

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

***Status:******Passed the full House on Wednesday this week by a vote of 69-0. It now goes to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee for action.***

This is a 28-page bill being promoted 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: Passed the full House on Wednesday this week by a vote of 69-0. It now goes to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee for action.***

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

***Status: Passed the full House on Wednesday this week by a vote of 69-0. It now goes to the Senate Health and Welfare Committee for action.***

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

**New Legislation Introduced this week:**

[**HB64 (formerly HB29)**](https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/legislation/H0064/)**– Abortion Complications Reporting** – by Rep. Greg Chaney

***Status:  Passed House State Affairs Committee, to the House floor for action.***

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

We will continue to track and report legislation of interest to the IAFP.

Ken Burgess

Veritas Advisors, LLP