**Idaho Academy of Family Physicians**

**2020 Legislative Report**

**Weeks 1 and 2, January 6 – January 17**

**Welcome to the 2020 Idaho Legislative session!**

The 2020 legislative session convened on Monday, January 6, 2020 with Governor Little delivering his State of the State Address.  As a result of the legislature’s failure to reauthorize administrative rules last session, committees began last week with an extensive review of all administrative rules. Committees plan to review previously approved rules in an omnibus package, while new rules will be reviewed separately.

Senate and House Leadership have set a target of March 20, 2020 for sine die adjournment. In keeping with the target adjournment date, bills must be introduced by Monday, February 10th and transmitted between both Houses by Monday, March 2nd.  This is an election year for all 105 legislative seats, and historically the legislature finishes sooner, and avoids mostly controversial policy items in election years.

**Governor Little’s State of the State address**

Governor Little’s address focused largely on his key budget priorities for the coming year and reflecting on this past year and its many successes. A few key priorities include continuing his efforts to reduce regulatory burden, education, and address the physician shortage. Download the entire address [**here**](http://idahofamilyphysicians.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-Gov-Little-Address.pdf).

It was announced earlier this year that Idaho is now the least regulated state in the nation. Idaho was able to reduce and streamline administrative rules by 75% in just one year. Governor Little joked that this was possible thanks to the legislature’s decision not to authorize the administrative code at the end of the 2019 legislative session. Continuing with his efforts to reduce regulatory burdens, Governor Little announced his agency will introduce thirty pieces of legislation to repeal outdated statutes. Governor Little will also seek to continue reducing regulatory burdens by enacting his first two Executive Orders of 2020.

In his first Executive Order of the year, [Zero-Based Regulation](https://gov.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/74/2020/01/eo-2020-01.pdf), the governor establishes an ongoing review process for existing agency rules , requiring 20% of all administrative rules be reviewed each year on a staggered timeline.

The second Executive Order, [Transparency in Agency Guidelines Documents,](https://gov.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/74/2020/01/eo-2020-02.pdf) requires agencies issuing guidance documents in conformance with regulations to clarify the document is not a new law.  All active guidelines are to be posted to the agency’s website in an easily accessible manner and submit an annual report to the Division of Financial Management containing each guidance and its purpose.

**Key priorities:**

**Medicaid Expansion** - As mentioned in his State of the State, Governor Little proposed no new state general funds for Medicaid expansion. Instead, to cover the first-year costs, the governor’s budget recommends using a combination of state budget offsets of $20 million, $12.5 from the Millennium Fund, and $8.5 million from the county budget savings.

**Idaho Physician Shortage**- The governor’s budget includes a request to use ongoing General Funds for 25 new medical residents.

**Opioid Abuse Prevention**- The governor is recommending $30 million to go towards identifying opioid abuse problems. A portion of this money will be spent on enhancing the Board of Pharmacy’s Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP).

**Health and Welfare Committees**

The House and Senate Health and Welfare committees are moving quickly through the rules review process. The House has completed their rules review and the Senate has nearly completed theirs. The Board of Medicine and Department of Health and Welfare rules have been adopted by both committees-minus the Vital Statistics rule related to birth certificate gender changes, which will be addressed as potential legislation. The vaccine and immunization rules requiring meningitis vaccine and booster shots also passed both committees with very little controversy.

**New Legislation Introduced this week:**

**H 315:  Controlled substances, Schedule I**, by Board of Pharmacy.

This bill aligns Idaho Controlled Substances Act with decisions made in 2019 by the Federal DEA.  It places synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic cathinones, and synthetic fentanyls in Schedule I.

*Status:  introduced in House Health and Welfare, awaiting hearing*

**H 316:  Pharmacy Act updates**, by Board of Pharmacy.

Updates Uniform Controlled Substances Act as it relates to Forfeitures and Discipline, updates and modernizes Pharmacy Act to be more consistent with recent legislative action.

*Status:  introduced in House Health and Welfare, awaiting hearing*

**H 317:  Optometric physician licensing act**, by Bureau of Occupational Licensing.

Cleans up and modernizes the optometric licensing act.  Among other things, includes expanded scope of practice to allow optometrists to perform certain laser surgical procedures once they’ve met certain examination and experience requirements.

*Status:  introduced in House Health and Welfare, awaiting hearing*

As always, we will continue to track activity of interest to the Academy of Family Physicians in the Legislature.  We stand ready to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,

Ken Burgess, Partner

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