

Idaho Academy of Family Physicians

2018 Legislative Report

Week 11 March 19 – March 23

“Idaho Health Care Plan” briefly revived, then dies again this week. After a procedural move to bring H464, the Dual-Waiver health care plan back to the House floor for a vote, the House then debated and voted to send it BACK to committee on Wednesday, effectively killing any effort to address a portion of the “gap” population this year.

As of Thursday evening, the legislature is effectively finished with it’s business. They will not formally adjourn until next week as they wait for the Governor to act on bills which have made it to his desk.

UPDATES on previous legislation:

Graduate Medical Education Ten-Year Plan - JFAC Action:

Update: The JFAC funding bill for medical education programs has passed both Houses and is now to the Governor.

JFAC approved an increase in Residency funding of an additional \$2 million for next year – to a total of \$19 million. The increase is less than the \$5.2 million requested for the ten-year plan, but more than the Governor’s recommendation of only \$1 million increase.

The budget allows for additional residency slots, including expansion of current residency programs and to create the foundation for residency training programs at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center and at Bingham Memorial Hospital.

HB 472: Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP) matching funds

UPDATE: Governor Otter signed this bill into law on Monday this week. The associated JFAC funding bill of \$640,000 has passed the legislature and is to the Governor.

The bill allows for the state to provide a financial match to the RPIP program of \$640,000.

HB 465: Medicaid Dental Care

UPDATE: The Governor signed this bill into law on Tuesday this week. The associated JFAC funding bill appropriating \$1.1 million of state funds and authority to spend additional \$2.7 of federal dollars has passed the legislature and is to the Governor.

This bill restores preventative dental care services for a certain population of Medicaid recipients.

HB 513: Sales and Use Tax Exemption for free clinics

UPDATE: This bill was signed into law by the Governor on Monday this week.

HB 505: Physical Therapist Dry Needling

UPDATE: The Governor signed this bill into law on Thursday this week.

HB 638: Abortion Complications Reporting Act (formerly HB 571)

UPDATE: Governor Otter signed this bill into law on Thursday this week. It takes effect July 1.

This bill requires the reporting of complications arising from abortion procedures to be reported to the Department of Health and Welfare. And annual statistical reports to be made public and reported to the legislature. See this Associated Press news story: <https://www.idahopress.com/news/state/idaho-to-require-personal->

[details-of-women-getting-abortions/article_3c4ce870-f190-5266-906f-c97a4648bc4a.html](https://www.idaholife.com/news/details-of-women-getting-abortions/article_3c4ce870-f190-5266-906f-c97a4648bc4a.html)

[HB 448: Provides Exemption from Obscenity Laws for Breastfeeding](#)

UPDATE: Governor signed this bill into law on Tuesday this week.

[HB 634: Suicide Prevention Programs in Schools](#)

UPDATE: Still awaiting action by the Governor.

Bills that have reached final disposition:

[HB 464: Dual Waiver "Idaho Health Care Plan" dead for the year.](#)

UPDATE: See first paragraph above.

[HB 563: Plan First Idaho](#)

UPDATE: A procedural move by Rep. Erpelding to force a debate on this bill failed on the House floor on Thursday morning.

[HB 494: Immunization Notices – Signatures Required](#)

UPDATE: Never received a hearing in Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

This legislation is written so that for every immunization given, the provider and the patient or guardian must sign an acknowledgment of receipt of the required immunization notices.

[HB 657: Felony Battery on Healthcare Providers \(formerly HB570\)](#)

UPDATE: This bill never received a hearing House Judiciary and Rules Committee.

[SB 1311: Direct Primary Care Pilot Program](#)

UPDATE: Never received a hearing in House Health and Welfare Committee.

Senator Steven Thayne's proposal would allow three of Idaho's Health Districts to participate in a pilot program that provides Primary Care services to individuals for a period of ten months IF they also participate in financial literacy classes/programs.

[HB 625: Tax on Opioids](#)

This bill was killed in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee on Friday, March 2.

This bill is designed to fund and provide services to prevent and treat opioid addiction in Idaho.

[SB 1255: Tobacco Age of Possession Killed in Senate State Affairs Committee](#)

UPDATE: After a few hours of debate the Senate State Affairs Committee voted 6-3 to hold this bill in committee. This bill would change the age of purchase for tobacco products and electronic cigarettes from 18 – 21 years of age.

[HB 495: Health Care Billing Equity Act HELD in House H & W Committee](#)

UPDATE: This bill was held in Committee after much debate and opposition from health care groups. It is expected that the stakeholders shall get together over the interim to come with a solution.

Bills signed into Law

[HB 353: Immunity for Physician Volunteers](#)

UPDATE: This bill was signed by the Governor on March 7 and will become effective July 1, 2018.

HB 451: Medical Residency Charitable Tax Deduction

This bill was signed by the Governor on March 1.

Rep. Mat Erpelding introduced this bill that would provide an income tax credit for charitable contributions made to accredited Idaho-based medical residency programs.

Unemployment Insurance Tax reduction

UPDATE: Governor Otter signed this bill into law on January 31.

Anyone who pays unemployment insurance taxes will see a reduction in that tax beginning January 1, 2018. It is estimated to reduce employer's unemployment taxes approximately 30% over a three year period beginning in 2018.

If at any point you would like to have more detail on any of these items, beyond these short descriptions, we would be happy to provide those for you.

I will provide an end-of-session wrap-up document next week.

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