



2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 9, 2021

Welcome back - end of session remains unclear

The Idaho Legislature returned on Tuesday following a two week pause due to a COVID-19 outbreak among legislators and legislative staff. Even though the original target date for sine die was March 26th, significant work remains on appropriations bills for fiscal year 2022 and other legislation that must be passed prior to adjournment. The last day could be between April 16th and early May. There is still pending debate on the American Rescue Plan Act funding that Idaho is set to receive to help the state respond to impacts of the pandemic.

Contact your legislators – support the Medicaid budget, SB 1185

One item of pending business before the House is SB 1185 which funds the Medicaid budget for fiscal year 2022. This critical funding bill will be a tight vote due to cost overruns in the Medicaid budget that result from the pandemic and pent-up demand in the expansion population. **Please contact your legislator and tell them to vote YES on SB 1185.**

Status: Passed the Senate by a vote of 29-6 and awaits consideration before the full House

Legislation to license “uneducated” naturopaths sent to Senate amending order

On Thursday, the Senate Health and Welfare Committee held a second hearing on SB 1128 which would license naturopaths who have not graduated from an accredited naturopathic medical school. The sponsors of the legislation proposed slight modifications to the original version presented on March 9th. IMA Legal Counsel Ken McClure testified in opposition to the legislation expressing concerns with the significant overreach in the scope of practice for unlicensed naturopaths. SB 1128 was ultimately sent to the amending order and the committee advised the stakeholders to meet to discuss how a consensus could be reached. IMA will continue to oppose any legislation that allows licensure of naturopaths beyond their scope of education and training.

Status: SB 1128 was sent to the amending order in the Senate

COVID-19 vaccine updates

Republicans seek more information on IRIS program

On Friday, the Republican Leadership of the House and Senate announced they are seeking more information into the IRIS program. The group of legislators asked Attorney General Lawrence Wasden to investigate IDHW's actions into what they believe may be unauthorized collection of vaccine information about adults. This effort reflects a continued skepticism from Republican legislators regarding vaccination policy in Idaho. The IMA lobby team will monitor this development closely, including any pending late session legislation to ensure scientific principles are upheld in regards to vaccination policy in Idaho.

AMA President on Vaccines

As the COVID-19 vaccine is now available for all adults in Idaho, IMA is continuing to work with the Governor, public health districts, and other stakeholders to make the COVID-19 vaccine accessible and combat vaccine hesitancy. AMA President, Dr. Susan Bailey penned an op-ed recently on how physicians can play a role in vaccinating our nation. You can read more [here](#).

Governor bans vaccine passports

On Wednesday, Governor Brad Little signed an executive order which would ban the State of Idaho from requiring vaccine passports or require proof of vaccination to receive public services or access facilities. Learn more [here](#).

To view a list of ALL healthcare-related bills and their statuses, visit the IMA Bill Tracker on the IMA website

IMA Bill Tracker

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The IMA Political Action Committee (IMPAC) Board uses your contributions to support a variety of bi-partisan candidates based on the best interests of Idaho physicians and their patients.

With the pandemic and constantly changing health care policies, it is more important now than ever that IMA has the resources to support legislators who will listen to our concerns. IMPAC needs your contributions now to support the house of medicine in Idaho!

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