



2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

May 7, 2021

Session slows to an end (almost)

On the 115th legislative day, the Idaho Legislature finished nearly all their regular business for the year including appropriations bills, a property tax bill, and legislation that relates to the emergency authority of the governor.

However, instead of officially ending the session (known as sine die), the House and Senate both adjourned for recess and will return May 12. The reason for not officially ending the legislative session is because legislators want the ability to respond to Gov. Little's actions on four bills passed by the legislature which are related to the emergency authority of the executive branch. Even after reconvening May 12 for limited business, the Idaho Legislature may again temporarily recess for an indeterminate period of time instead of adjourning. Legislators want to be able to reconvene for potential deliberations and decisions on federal funds Idaho will receive from the American Rescue Plan Act.

The emergency authority legislation consists of HB 391, 392, and 393, which are essentially the components of HB 135 parsed into three separate bills. HB 135 was vetoed by the governor and sustained by the Senate. HB 391 clarifies that constitutional rights cannot be suspended in a declared emergency; HB 392 states that a governor cannot change laws during a declared emergency; HB 393 states that all jobs are essential and narrows the restrictions that can be placed on workers during a declared emergency.

The House and Senate also passed SB 1217. This bill replaces SB 1136, which was also vetoed by the governor and sustained by the Senate. SB 1217 would require that emergencies lasting more than 90

days be revoked unless the legislature is in session or the governor calls the two chambers back to consider extending the emergency declaration. It also protects constitutional rights to bear arms and exercise religion, declares all Idaho workers essential, and prevents the governor from altering statutes during an emergency.

Status: HB 391, 392, 393, and SB 1217 await the consideration of the governor

Idaho Patient Act negotiations ongoing, feedback requested

Following the passage of HB 42, which delays certain provisions of the Idaho Patient Act to July 1, 2021, IMA and other groups are engaged in ongoing discussions with Melaleuca to improve the law based on issues IMA members have encountered. IMA has created a survey geared towards practice managers to solicit feedback on the process of implementing the Idaho Patient Act. **Please fill out the survey [HERE](#)**. If you would like to share additional areas of concern with IMA, contact Director of Government Affairs, Jamie Neill at jamie@idmed.org.

For information on implementing the Idaho Patient Act, visit the [IMA fact sheet](#).

IDHW and IMA want your feedback on COVID-19 vaccine distribution

As the supply of the COVID-19 vaccine has outpaced demand in Idaho, the Department of Health & Welfare (DHW) has turned to IMA to seek feedback from physicians on the barriers that exist when administering the vaccine. In partnership with DHW, IMA has created the following survey to collect feedback on the challenges physicians face when administering the COVID-19 vaccine and identifying resources that could help.

If you have experience with administering the COVID-19 vaccine, **please fill out the survey [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](#)

Support IMPAC the IMA's Political Action Committee!



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!

Donate to IMPAC today!

To subscribe additional emails to receive the IMA Legislative Reports, [click here](#).



Idaho Medical Association
P.O. Box 83701 | 208-344-7888
idmed.org | [Unsubscribe](#)

