



2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Feb. 12, 2021

Legislation to delay Idaho Patient Act passes Senate committee

On Feb. 11, the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee passed HB 42 that would allow for a delay to the Idaho Patient Act until July 1, 2021, while maintaining some key protections to patients under the existing law. IMA CEO Susie Keller testified in favor of the bill which passed the committee unanimously. The bill is now pending before the full Senate having passed the House 70-0. Here are the important provisions of the legislation:

Six-month delay to July 1, 2021.

Clarifies that the new July 1, 2021 date pertains to the date the healthcare service was provided. The existing law required compliance with the Act prior to its effective date.

The portion of the law that limits the collection of attorney's fees in legal actions on behalf of healthcare providers is not included in the delay and thus will remain in effect as of Jan. 1, 2021.

The bill will contain a special emergency clause that allows the delay to go into effect as soon as the bill passes the legislature and is signed by the governor.

IMA thanks Sen. Kelly Anthon (R-Burley) for his leadership in advancing the legislation in committee. IMA and IHA will continue to engage with Melaleuca to seek improvements to the law to ensure that there are adequate protections for patients and no unnecessary burdens for physicians.

STATUS: HB 42 passed the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee

Legislation to delay Idaho Patient Act passes the House

On Feb. 1, the House passed HB 42 by a vote of 70-0 that would allow for a delay to the Idaho Patient Act until July 1, 2021, while maintaining some key protections to patients under the existing law. The bill is now pending before the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee. Here are the important provisions of the legislation:

Six-month delay to July 1, 2021.

Clarifies that the new July 1, 2021 date pertains to the date the healthcare service was provided. The existing law required compliance with the Act prior to its effective date.

The portion of the law that limits the collection of attorney's fees in legal actions on behalf of healthcare providers is not included in the delay and thus will remain in effect as of Jan. 1, 2021.

The bill will contain a special emergency clause that allows the delay to go into effect as soon as the bill passes the legislature and is signed by the governor.

IMA thanks Rep. Jason Monks (R-Nampa) for his leadership in advancing the legislation in the House and we look forward to working with Sen. Kelly Anthon (R-Burley), who is the bill sponsor in the Senate.

IMA and IHA will continue to engage with Melaleuca to seek improvements to the law to ensure that there are adequate protections for patients and no unnecessary burdens for physicians.

STATUS: HB 42 passed the House by a vote of 70-0 and is awaiting consideration before the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee

Governor launches vaccine dashboard

On Feb. 9, Gov. Brad Little launched a vaccine transparency data website in a follow up to his Jan. 28 executive order. The data shows the number of doses allocated to providers and health districts and the number of doses administered. This coordination is helping Idaho with the distribution strategy to make sure the vaccine is appropriately distributed. [View the new data dashboard.](#)

HB 97: COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION - Oppose

The legislation was introduced by Rep John Gannon (D-Boise) and Rep. Bruce Skaug (R-Nampa) and states that 70% of the vaccine distribution must be distributed by providers within 14 days. If a provider fails to notify the state that vaccines have not been distributed, they face a \$5,000 penalty and those doses are subject to reassignment.

STATUS: The bill is awaiting a hearing in the House Health and Welfare Committee

Federal update

[Crapo lands ranking member position on Finance Committee](#)

When the Senate finalized the power-sharing agreement between the new Democrat majority and Republicans, committee chairs and ranking members were assigned. For Idaho, that means Sen. Mike Crapo assumed the top Republican position on the Finance Committee, giving him significant oversight over the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and issues such as Medicare, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and other health and human services programs financed by a specific tax or trust fund. Leading these efforts for Sen. Crapo will be longtime health staffer Kellie McConnell, who will be the Health Policy Director for the committee. The IMA thanks Kellie for all her efforts over the years for Idaho and is excited to work with her in the new role.

IMA signs letter to end the Medicare sequester

IMA joined AMA's recent letter to congressional leaders, requesting they extend the moratorium on the Medicare sequester which expires on March 31st. The two percent cut to Medicare reimbursement rates would compound the issues as we are just beginning to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. The letter respectfully requests that Congress pass the bipartisan H.R. 315, the Medicare Sequester COVID Moratorium Act, which would extend the moratorium on Medicare cuts through the duration of the public health emergency.

IMA monitoring recently enacted federal surprise billing legislation

With enactment of the "No Surprises Act" that was included as part of the package of year-end bills Congress passed, the IMA is working with AMA to monitor the implementation of the new federal law which is set to take effect on January 1, 2022. The rulemaking process is anticipated to begin shortly, and draft rule is anticipated to be available for public comment this summer. For more information you can read AMA's preview of what to expect.

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!

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