

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2014

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood(27), Vice Chairman Perry, Representative(s) Hancey, Henderson, Hixon, Malek, Morse, Romrell, Vander Woude, Rusche, Chew

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Hancey

GUESTS: Woody Richards, AHIP; Elli Brown, Veritas Advisors; Emily Patchin, St. Alphonsus; Marnie Packard, Pacific Source; Julie Taylor, Blue Cross; Elizabeth Criner, ACS-CAN/Pfizer

Chairman Wood(27) called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10 and February 11, 2014, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22887: **Rep. Tom Loertscher**, District 32, presented **RS 22887**, proposed legislation to repeal the Catastrophic Fund (CAT) and county indigent programs. The 2016 implementation date coincides with the county budget year, which starts October 1st. This delay gives time to consider how to handle the change and, if necessary, the Legislature a chance to develop replacement programs. Responding to a question, Rep. Loertscher said the burial and other nonmedical assistance will not be affected by this repeal. It was also important that the repeal not interfere in any way with community hospitals.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 22887**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22811: **Elizabeyh Criner**, American Cancer Society - Cancer Action Network, Pfizer, presented **RS 22811**, proposed legislation for medication synchronization for patients with chronic illnesses in Idaho. A prorated daily cost-sharing rate will be applied, if less than a thirty-day supply is issued when a medication synchronization is indicated. Pharmacists will be provided a synchronization dispensing fee. Insurance carriers will cover the prescription. This change is expected to improve outcomes and reduce nonadherence to medication therapies. Responding to a question, Ms. Criner said the patient has the choice to synchronize. Insurance carriers will have to cover the intermittent amount of pills to begin the synchronization.

MOTION: **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to introduce **RS 22811**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22896C1: **Rep. Janet Trujillo**, District 33, presented **RS 22896C1**, which is proposed CAT and county indigent program legislation that limits coverage to individuals below the 100% federal poverty level (FPL). With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, individuals previously covered under the county indigent program are able to obtain health care coverage. Hardship exemptions are also obtainable through the Health Care Exchange. By shifting these services, Idaho becomes compliant with federal law. Savings are estimated at \$12 million to the State General Fund and \$6 million to the counties.

Responding to questions, **Rep. Trujillo** emphasized that this does not involve Medicaid. It only impacts individuals qualifying for the county indigent or CAT programs who would be eligible for insurance on the State Exchange. This complies with federal law. The effective date of January 1, 2016, allows additional enrollment time on the Exchange. The ACA has a Catastrophic Plan to cover hardship instances. The incentives available on the Exchange are given based on income levels, which can be detailed at the bill hearing.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 22896C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22844C1: **Rep. John Vander Woude**, District 22, presented **RS 22844C1**, relating to exchanges of state endowment lands. The proposed changes would require appraisals and review appraisals of endowment lands traded and of the lands received in exchange for them. This assures previous value exchanges are proper, protecting investments of endowment funds for proper return on exchanges.

Rep. Morse invoked Rule 38 because he holds the designation required in this legislation.

MOTION: **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to introduce **RS 22844C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22845C1: **Rep. John Vander Woude**, presented **RS 22845C1**, which addresses appraisals for public lands. Currently the appraisals are not public records and available for review until after the deal is completed. This proposed legislation makes the appraisals public record prior to the exchange, so the documents can be properly reviewed.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 22845C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22843: **Rep. John Vander Woude**, presented **RS 22843**, proposed legislation for Department of Lands reporting. The current reporting fluctuation is addressed to create a tighter report to understand earnings and affect on endowments. The Department has 2.4 million acres of land, so a good financial report is important.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 22843**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

After a brief recess, **Chairman Wood(27)** called the meeting back to order at 9:38 a.m.

RS 22952: **Rep. Luke Malek**, District 4, presented **RS 22952**, proposed legislation that excludes the use of exploding targets on public lands that are closed during fire season. These devices are popular and this legislation would reduce the risk of wild fires. This is replacement legislation for a Resources and Conservation Committee bill that required a technical correction.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 22952**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Representative Wood(27)
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary