

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Wednesday, February 26, 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:** None
- GUESTS:** Kris Ellis, IDAANP; Colby Inzer, IANP; Julie Taylor, Blue Cross; Woody Richards, Insurance Companies; Elizabeth Criner, WinCo
- Chairman Wood(27)** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- RS 22997:** **Steve Millard**, President, Idaho Hospital Association, presented **RS 22997**, which changes the previously printed **H 520** to clarify the private hospital assessment determinations will use a rolling yearly schedule for each hospital's fiscal year.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to introduce **RS 22997**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 22998:** **Rep. John Rusche**, District 6, presented **RS 22998**, which is a repeat of **HCR 39** that was held due to concerns expressed by the health plans about the specificity of one phrase. A change was made to non specification of a claims data base, which allows for the consideration of a variety of available data base types and price ranges. This is a less prescriptive approach to hospital discharge and health care data collection.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to introduce **RS 22998** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Rusche** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- RS 22918:** **Brian Kane**, Idaho Attorney General's Office, presented **RS 22918**. This proposed legislation removes three sections that require the Attorney General's Office deliver an opinion on bond issues about which they have no knowledge of correctness. A new section clarifies delegation authority, enabling public bodies to enter the bond market with the most competitive position available, potentially saving note holders a significant amount of money.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Malek** made a motion to introduce **RS 22918**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 22978:** **Rep. Luke Malek**, presented **RS 22978**, revised legislation regarding instances where images, meant to be intimate, are posted for reasons other than sexual gratification.
- Responding to questions, **Rep. Malek** said the addition of the phrase "or with reckless disregard" broadened the language to address the legal burden of proof that an individual's actions may not have been what was intended. Any resulting incarceration would have an impact to the General Fund.
- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 22978**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 23002: **Rep. Brandon Hixon**, District 10, presented **RS 23002**. He invoked Rule 38 stating he is an Idaho licensed life insurance agent. This proposed legislation, creating a new section in Chapter 19, Title 41, Idaho Code, states that no life insurance policy can be lapsed or cancelled unless notice has been given via certified mail. It includes a designee notification provision and allows insurers to charge insureds for any notification fees. This will be an option for insureds to have on their policies. The specified implementation date allows the insurance industry to come into compliance.

Rep. Hixon answered questions, stating that an "insured" is the person about whom the policy is written and the policyholder is the owner of the policy. The current system relies on standard mail.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Perry** made a motion to introduce **RS 23002**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 23005: **Rep. Christy Perry**, presented **RS 23005**, proposed legislation to request the DHW stagger issuance of food stamp program benefits. They are currently issued on the first day of the month, which coincides with other federal payments and places a hardship on retailers. The DHW has suggested a change to a ten consecutive day issuance schedule. Implementation would be by December 31, 2015. The annual food stamp bonus money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture is to be used toward the implementation costs.

MOTION: **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to introduce **RS 23005**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 22977C1: **Kris Ellis**, Idaho Chapter, American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, presented **RS 22977C1**, describing events occurring since 2005 and the recurring theme that existing Rules and standards of education have not gone into effect. The proposed legislation for the Naturopathic Medicine Licensing Act will use the same education standards used for all medical licenses in Idaho and allow voluntary registration for recognized naturopaths, due to their length of practice. The existing law, Chapter 51, Title 54, Idaho Code, enacted in 2005, is repealed and replaced with a new Chapter 51. **Ms. Ellis** then detailed the significant portions within the new chapter.

Section 5101 expresses the intent that those practicing under the Smith decision continue to practice. Section 5102 defines an approved naturopathic medical program and natural health care services. Section 5103A clears up confusion about use of the term "Doctor". It grandfatheres those calling themselves naturopathic doctors, if they register before July 1, 2015. After that date only licensed naturopathic doctors can use the term.

Section 5104 list practices that are exempt from licensure requirements. Section 5105 lists licensed titles. Sections 5106 and 5107 establishes and defines the powers and duties of a Board of Naturopathic Medicine comprised of three naturopathic physicians, one medical doctor, and one pharmacist.

Section 5108 establishes the licensing educational standards, grandfather parameters, renewal, and fees. Section 5112 covers disciplinary action only for licensees. Section 5113 addresses denial or discipline for individuals representing themselves as registered, calling themselves a Doctor without registration, practicing as another licensed profession, or having a history of criminal activity. There is no intent or provision for regulation or discipline for registrants who practice natural health care services.

Additional changes add the Board of Naturopathic Medicine to the list of boards overseen by the Bureau of Occupational Licenses statutes, and gives the Board the authority and responsibility to repay the debt of the previous Board. Licenses issued and actions taken by the previous Board are declared null and void.

Licenses will be required after July 1, 2015. This Act will sunset in 2020, unless continued by the Legislature.

Ms. Ellis emphasized the need for this legislation to address serious concerns about previously issued licenses, patient complaints, and a non-functioning board with an accrued debt.

MOTION: **Rep. Rusche** made a motion to introduce **RS 22977C1. Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Representative Wood(27)
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary