

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 13, 2017
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
PLACE: Room EW20
MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Packer, Representatives Hixon, Perry, Vander Woude, Redman, Gibbs, Blanksma, Hanks, Kingsley, Zollinger, Chew, Rubel
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None
GUESTS: Miren Unsworth, Michelle Weir, and Russ Barron, IDHW; Greg Casey, Veritas Advisors

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

RS 25148: **Rep. Phylis King**, District 18, Registered Medical Laboratory Scientist, presented **RS 25148**, to license clinical laboratory practitioners. The profession of laboratory medicine has changed to include hundreds of new tests and methodologies for analyzing human body fluids, including genetic testing. Clinical laboratories provide as much as 70% of the data needed by caregivers to diagnose, treat, and monitor their patients.

This Proposed Legislation will set up three levels of practitioner and a professional board to establish and enforce licensure provisions, conduct standards, licensing qualifications, and ethics issues. There is a grandfather clause for anyone currently practicing. Accurate testing and aid for disease diagnosis are important to provide an effective way to keep patients safe.

MOTION: **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to introduce **RS 25148**. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Hixon, Vander Woude, and Hanks**, requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

Chairman Wood turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Packer**.

RS 25224C1: **Rep. Fred Wood**, District 27, presented **RS 25224C1**, the Healthcare Assistance Program. The purpose of this legislation is to authorize primary care, limited prescriptions, and care coordination to a specific population. This population has income levels below 100% of the federal poverty guideline, are not eligible for Medicaid or the Advanced Payment of Tax Credit, and are not currently eligible or enrolled in an employer sponsored or other government subsidized health care plan.

This program will only cover a limited subgroup of adults and is not comprehensive care. It will provide eligible participants with regular preventive primary care and chronic conditions care management. This will further the state's goal to transform Idaho's healthcare system from a volume based, fee-for-service model to a value based system of care.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, the Idaho Millennium Fund has approximately \$10M available for appropriation to the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) for the newly created Health Care Assistance Program in the Division of Public Health. In addition, the DHW would be provided with the spending authority for \$500,000 from the Dedicated Cooperative Welfare Fund for any donations or contributions received, up to that amount, for health care costs. The funds will be non-transferable. If donations come as expected, the total amount available in FY 2018 may be up to \$10.5 million. Subsequent year funding will be limited to the amount available for appropriation from the Millennium Fund.

MOTION: **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to introduce **RS 25224C1**.

Rep. Kingsley commented this is important to Idaho's indigent population, whose circumstances can prevent initial care of a minor injury before it escalates.

Answering questions, **Chairman Wood** said donations could be contributions from charitable organizations or possible grants, providing a pre-event avenue, although no donations are planned or expected.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 25224C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Packer turned the gavel over to **Chairman Wood**.

H 38: **Chairman Wood** returned **H 38** to the committee for consideration, which was held for time certain from the meeting of Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

Ross Edmunds, Administrator, Division of Behavioral Health, DHW, presented **H 38** to allow state hospitals to provide treatment contrary to a mental health declaration.

Answering questions, **Mr. Edmunds** explained the Division is charged, by code, to bring court-ordered clients to competency, whenever possible. This can be in conflict with the client's advanced mental health directive. Sometimes a person's mental illness affects their desire or ability to engage in treatment. When a court override for a commitment order is received, clients are informed of their due process and about the override. If refused, the client can take the issue to the Patients' Rights Board.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to send **H 38** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 38** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Zollinger** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1005: **Miren Unsworth**, Deputy Administrator, DHW, Division of Family and Community Services, presented **S 1005**. Sex trafficking of minors is an issue of increasing state and federal concern. This Legislation adds a definition for human trafficking based on the Justice For Victims of Sex Trafficking Act of 2015, as mandated by the amended Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) state grant program requirements.

States are required to consider any child who is identified as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking to be a victim of sexual abuse, child abuse, and neglect. Through this Legislation, the definition of human trafficking will be included in the abused and sexual conduct as well as aggravated circumstances definitions of the Idaho Child Protective Act.

MOTION: **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to send **S 1005** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Answering questions, **Ms. Unsworth**, said this definition clarifies the civil and criminal action filing of a Child Protective Act petition. If involving the parents, the court can approve aggravated circumstances and allow the DHW to move quickly toward alternative permanency for the child and eliminate reunification with the parents.

CAPTA funding is used for safety assessments and the Keeping Children Safe Panels. The Governor's Task Force for Juveniles At Risk uses the Criminal Justice Act funds to offer grants to multi-disciplinary teams and child advocacy centers.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Chairman Wood called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1005** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Hixon** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Representative Wood
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary