

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 16, 2020

TIME: 1:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Wagoner, Representatives Vander Woude, Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Zollinger, Christensen, Lickley, Remington, Chew, Rubel, Davis

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Blanksma

GUESTS: Seth Grigg, IAC

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Davis** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 11, 12, 13 a.m. and 13 p.m., 2020, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

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

H 642: **Rep. Fred Wood**, District 27, presented **H 642**. This legislation does four things. It limits the County Indigency Program eligibility. It reassigns the first \$12M, approximately, of county revenue sharing to the Medicaid Expansion Program. It creates the Medicaid Expansion Account for these funds. It provides for the use of the charity levy funds for the Justice Fund Programs. Stipulation is made to prevent fund comingling with the Co-op Usage Funds. The sales tax county distribution is 28.2% for fiscal year 2021. The requested \$12M, approximately, equals 17% of that distribution amount and does not impact the indigency program administrative costs.

Seth Grigg, Executive Director, Idaho Association of Counties (IAC), testified **in opposition** to **H 642**. The amendments for justice related purchases codifies what they have been working toward for some time. Ten counties do not have the justice levy and two counties do not have the charity levy. Charity levies also pay for indigent burials and jail medical expenses.

Trying to assess the actual county fiscal impact prior to the IMD waiver approval is difficult because individuals at IMD facilities continue to have counties pay their expenses.

The Governor has recommended the counties pay \$8.5M for the Medicaid Expansion costs. This legislation has been developed without the knowledge of the full expansion program cost and its impact on the indigent program. The IAC requests a one-year wait to better assess what is needed for a county funding strategy.

Answering a question, **Mr. Griggs** said they have determined the litigious nature of some hospital claims to be one reason for the differences in the individual county indigent costs. They know this is not the whole story.

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

In closing remarks **Rep. Wood** said for several years the counties have been spending \$20M for their indigent program, including \$7M to \$8M for administrative costs. This is a simple, straight forward method to determine the county participation for this gordian knot of a problem. This asks for a little over 50% of what the counties have been paying. The IMD waiver is a facilities Medicaid billing allowance waiver and has nothing to do with Medicaid eligibility.

MOTION: **Rep. Vander Woude** made a motion to send **H 642** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee discussion included how a delay would impact county budget setting in October, the need to wait until the work requirement waiver secondary gap population size is determined, the eligibility change impact on hospitals, the impact on taxpayers and emergency services during this health crisis, the need for action during this session.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Vice Chairman Wagoner** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 642** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Rubel, Davis, Chew, Christensen, and Gibbs** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Wood** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Representative Wagoner
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary