

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 316

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS; AMENDING CHAPTER 35, TITLE 31, IDAHO  
2 CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 31-3505H, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE  
3 THAT CERTAIN PERSONS SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR COUNTY MEDICAL ASSIS-  
4 TANCE OR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE CATASTROPHIC HEALTH CARE COST PROGRAM AND  
5 TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AMENDING SECTION 39-401, IDAHO CODE,  
6 TO PROVIDE THAT PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS ARE NOT DEPARTMENTS OR AGEN-  
7 CIES OF A COUNTY GOVERNMENT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUANCE OF CERTAIN  
8 AGREEMENTS OR SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS, TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION, AND TO  
9 MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; AMENDING SECTION 39-411, IDAHO CODE, TO  
10 REMOVE A PROVISION THAT NO MORE THAN ONE MEMBER OF A DISTRICT BOARD OF  
11 HEALTH SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM CERTAIN GROUPS; AMENDING SECTION 39-413,  
12 IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH SHALL DETER-  
13 MINE COMPENSATION FOR THE DISTRICT HEALTH DIRECTOR AND TO PROVIDE THAT  
14 CERTAIN DUTIES SHALL BE THE EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DISTRICT  
15 HEALTH DIRECTOR; AMENDING SECTION 39-414, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PRO-  
16 VISIONS REGARDING POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DISTRICT BOARD OF HEALTH;  
17 AMENDING SECTION 39-414A, IDAHO CODE, TO REMOVE A REFERENCE TO THE  
18 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; AMENDING SECTION 39-423, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE  
19 FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A DESIGNEE TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE OF A PUBLIC  
20 HEALTH DISTRICT AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION; AMENDING CHAPTER  
21 4, TITLE 39, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 39-424A, IDAHO  
22 CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING ADDITIONAL COUNTY AID TO PUBLIC  
23 HEALTH DISTRICTS AND PROCEDURES; AMENDING SECTION 39-425, IDAHO CODE,  
24 TO REVISE PROVISIONS REGARDING STATE AID TO PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS;  
25 DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND PROVIDING EFFECTIVE DATES.  
26

27 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

28 SECTION 1. That Chapter 35, Title 31, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
29 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
30 ignated as Section 31-3505H, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

31 31-3505H. ELIGIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. (1) Notwithstanding  
32 any provision of law or rule to the contrary, no person eligible for medicaid  
33 pursuant to section 56-254 or 56-267, Idaho Code, shall be eligible for fi-  
34 nancial assistance pursuant to this chapter.

35 (2) Notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to the contrary, no  
36 person eligible for health insurance shall be eligible for financial assis-  
37 tance pursuant to this chapter.

38 (3) Notwithstanding any provision of law or rule to the contrary, no  
39 person in a commitment proceeding pursuant to chapter 3, title 66, Idaho  
40 Code, who is eligible for medicaid or eligible for health insurance shall be  
41 eligible for financial assistance pursuant to this chapter.

1 (4) It is the intent of the legislature that moneys saved by counties  
 2 pursuant to this section may be used for additional county aid to public  
 3 health districts as required by section 39-424A, Idaho Code.

4 SECTION 2. That Section 39-401, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
 5 amended to read as follows:

6 39-401. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. (1) The various health districts, as pro-  
 7 vided for in this chapter, are not:

8 (a) A a single department of state government unto themselves, nor are  
 9 they a;

10 (b) A part of any of the twenty (20) departments of state government au-  
 11 thorized by section 20, article IV, Idaho constitution, or;

12 (c) A part of the departments prescribed in section 67-2402, Idaho  
 13 Code; or

14 (d) A department or an agency of county government.

15 (2) It is legislative intent that health districts operate and be  
 16 recognized not as state or county agencies or departments, but as govern-  
 17 mental entities whose creation has been authorized by the state, much in  
 18 the manner as other single purpose districts. Pursuant to this intent, and  
 19 because health districts are not state or county departments or agencies,  
 20 health districts are exempt from the required participation in the services  
 21 of the purchasing agent or employee liability coverage, as rendered by the  
 22 department of administration. However, nothing shall prohibit the health  
 23 districts from entering into contractual contractual arrangements with the  
 24 department of administration, or any other department of state government or  
 25 an elected constitutional officer, for these or any other services.

26 (3) It is legislative intent to affirm the provisions of section  
 27 39-413, Idaho Code, requiring compliance with the state merit system, and  
 28 to affirm the participation of the health districts in the public employee  
 29 retirement system, pursuant to section 39-426, Idaho Code, chapter 13, title  
 30 59, Idaho Code, and chapter 53, title 67, Idaho Code.

31 (4) It is also legislative intent that the matters of location of de-  
 32 posit of health district funds, or the instruments or documents of payment  
 33 from those funds shall be construed as no more than items of convenience for  
 34 the conduct of business, and in no way reflect upon the nature or status of  
 35 the health districts as entities of government.

36 (5) This section merely affirms that health districts created under  
 37 this chapter are not state or county agencies, and in no way changes the char-  
 38 acter of those agencies as they existed prior to this act.

39 (6) Public health districts will have the option to continue with  
 40 agreements and service arrangements, including insurance arrangements,  
 41 with state agencies that were effective prior to January 1, 2022, unless an  
 42 agreement or service arrangement is expressly nullified by statute.

43 SECTION 3. That Section 39-411, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
 44 amended to read as follows:

45 39-411. COMPOSITION OF DISTRICT BOARD -- QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS  
 46 -- APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL -- TERMS -- SELECTION OF OFFICERS -- BOARD OF  
 47 TRUSTEES OF DISTRICT BOARDS OF HEALTH. (1) For those districts comprised of:

1 (a) Fewer than eight (8) counties, the district board of health shall  
2 consist of seven (7) members to be appointed by the boards of county  
3 commissioners within each district acting jointly, and each board of  
4 county commissioners may appoint a board member.

5 (b) Eight (8) counties, the district board of health shall consist of  
6 not fewer than eight (8) members nor more than nine (9) members, and each  
7 board of county commissioners may appoint a board member.

8 (2) Each member of the district board of health shall be a citizen of the  
9 United States, a resident of the state of Idaho and the public health dis-  
10 trict for one (1) year immediately last past, and a qualified elector. One  
11 (1) member of the district board, if available to serve, shall be a physician  
12 licensed by the Idaho state board of medicine, ~~and no more than one (1) mem-  
13 ber shall be appointed from any professional or special interest group.~~ All  
14 members shall be chosen with due regard to their knowledge and interest in  
15 public health and in promoting the health of the citizens of the state and the  
16 public health district. Representation shall be assured from rural as well  
17 as urban population groups.

18 (3) All appointments to the district board shall be confirmed by a  
19 majority vote of all the county commissioners of all the counties located  
20 within the public health district. Any member of the district board may be  
21 removed by majority vote of all the county commissioners of all the counties  
22 located within the district.

23 (4) The members of the district board of health shall be appointed for a  
24 term of five (5) years, subject to reappointment; and vacancies on the board  
25 for an unexpired term shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term.  
26 Notwithstanding any provision of this section as to term of appointment, if  
27 a board member is an appointee for a board of county commissioners, and if  
28 that board member is an elected county commissioner and leaves office prior  
29 to the expiration of the term on the district board of health, the board of  
30 county commissioners may declare the position vacant and may appoint another  
31 currently elected county commissioner to fill the unexpired portion of the  
32 term of that board member.

33 (5) The members of the district board, each year, shall select a chair-  
34 man, a vice chairman and a trustee. The trustee shall represent the district  
35 board as a member of the board of trustees of the Idaho district boards of  
36 health.

37 (6) The board of trustees of the Idaho district boards of health shall  
38 have authority to allocate appropriations from the legislature to the health  
39 districts. Such authority is limited to the development and administration  
40 of formulas for the allocation of legislative appropriations. Any formula  
41 adopted by the board of trustees must be in use, without alteration, for at  
42 least two (2) years; provided that during the two (2) year period, the for-  
43 mula may be changed if an emergency occurs, the emergency is declared and  
44 there is a unanimous vote of the board of trustees to make the emergency for-  
45 mula change. All proceedings of the board of trustees shall be subject to the  
46 provisions of chapter 2, title 74, Idaho Code.

47 SECTION 4. That Section 39-413, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
48 amended to read as follows:

1           39-413. DISTRICT HEALTH DIRECTOR -- APPOINTMENT -- POWERS AND DU-  
2 TIES. A district health director shall be appointed by the district board and  
3 shall receive compensation as determined by the district board. The direc-  
4 tor shall have and exercise the following powers and duties in addition to  
5 all other powers and duties inherent in the position or delegated to him or  
6 imposed upon him by law or rule, regulation, or ordinance:

7           (1) To be secretary and administrative officer of the district board of  
8 health;

9           (2) To prescribe such rules and regulations, consistent with the re-  
10 quirements of this chapter, as may be necessary for the government of the  
11 district, the conduct and duties of the district employees, the orderly and  
12 efficient handling of business and the custody, use and preservation of the  
13 records, papers, books and property belonging to the public health district;

14           (3) To administer oaths for all purposes required in the discharge of  
15 his duties;

16           (4) With the approval of the district board to:

17           (a) Prescribe the positions and the qualifications of all personnel un-  
18 der the district health director on a nonpartisan merit basis in accor-  
19 dance with the objective standards approved by the district board. This  
20 shall be the exclusive responsibility of the district health director,  
21 with the approval of the board, and no state official, elected or other-  
22 wise, or agency shall have any power to disapprove or interfere with the  
23 performance by the director and the board of this duty or to delay such  
24 performance in any way.

25           (b) Fix the rate of pay and appoint, promote, demote, and separate such  
26 employees and to perform such other personnel actions as are needed from  
27 time to time in conformance with the requirements of chapter 53, title  
28 67, Idaho Code. This shall be the exclusive responsibility of the dis-  
29 trict health director, with the approval of the board, and no state of-  
30 ficial, elected or otherwise, or agency shall have any power to disap-  
31 prove or interfere with the performance by the director and the board of  
32 this duty or to delay such performance in any way.

33           (c) Create such units and sections as are or may be necessary for the  
34 proper and efficient functioning of the duties herein imposed.

35           SECTION 5. That Section 39-414, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
36 amended to read as follows:

37           39-414. POWERS AND DUTIES OF DISTRICT BOARD. The district board of  
38 health shall have and may exercise the following powers and duties:

39           (1) To administer and enforce all state and district health laws, regu-  
40 lations, and standards.

41           (2) To do all things required for the preservation and protection of  
42 the public health and preventive health, and to enter into agreements with  
43 the director of the state department of health and welfare or the director  
44 of the department of environmental quality to provide services or do such  
45 other things delegated by the director of the state department of health and  
46 welfare or the director of the department of environmental quality and this  
47 shall be authority for the director(s) to so delegate as specified in the  
48 agreement. An agreement entered pursuant to this subsection may be between  
49 either such director and one (1) district or multiple districts.

1 (3) To determine the location of its main office and to determine the  
2 location, if any, of branch offices.

3 (4) To enter into contracts with any other governmental or public  
4 agency whereby the district board agrees to render services to or for such  
5 agency in exchange for a charge reasonably calculated to cover the cost of  
6 rendering such service. This authority is to be limited to services vol-  
7 untarily rendered and voluntarily received and shall not apply to services  
8 required by statute, rule, and regulations, or standards promulgated pur-  
9 suant to this act or chapter 1, title 39, Idaho Code.

10 (5) All moneys or payment received or collected by gift, grant, devise,  
11 or any other way shall be deposited to the respective division or subaccount  
12 of the public health district in the public health district fund authorized  
13 by section 39-422, Idaho Code.

14 (6) To establish a fiscal control policy ~~required by the state con-~~  
15 ~~troller.~~

16 (7) To cooperate with the state board of health and welfare, the depart-  
17 ment of health and welfare, the board of environmental quality and the de-  
18 partment of environmental quality.

19 (8) To enter into contracts with other governmental agencies, and this  
20 act hereby authorizes such other agencies to enter into contracts with the  
21 health district, as may be deemed necessary to fulfill the duties imposed  
22 upon the district in providing for the health of the citizens within the dis-  
23 trict.

24 (9) To purchase, exchange or sell real property and construct, rent, or  
25 lease such buildings as may be required for the accomplishment of the duties  
26 imposed upon the district and to further obtain such other personal property  
27 as may be necessary to its functions.

28 (10) To accept, receive and utilize any gifts, grants, or funds and per-  
29 sonal and real property that may be donated to it for the fulfillment of the  
30 purposes outlined in this act.

31 (11) To establish a charge whereby the board agrees to render services  
32 to or for entities other than governmental or public agencies for an amount  
33 reasonably calculated to cover the cost of rendering such service.

34 (12) To enter into a lease of real or personal property as lessor or  
35 lessee, or other transaction with the Idaho health facilities authority for  
36 a term not to exceed ninety-nine (99) years upon a determination by the dis-  
37 trict board that the real or personal property to be leased is necessary for  
38 the purposes of the district, and to pledge nontax revenues of the district  
39 to secure the district's obligations under such leases. For the purposes of  
40 this chapter, a public health district is not a subdivision of the state and  
41 shall be considered an independent body corporate and politic pursuant to  
42 section 1, article VIII, of the constitution of the state of Idaho, and is not  
43 authorized hereby to levy taxes nor to obligate the state of Idaho concerning  
44 such financing.

45 (13) To administer and certify solid waste disposal site operations,  
46 closure, and post\_closure procedures established by statute or regulation  
47 in accordance with provisions of chapter 74, title 39, Idaho Code, in a  
48 manner equivalent to the site certification process set forth in section  
49 39-7408, Idaho Code.

1 (14) To select a board member to serve as trustee on the board of  
2 trustees of the Idaho district boards of health.

3 SECTION 6. That Section 39-414A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 39-414A. AUDIT OF HEALTH DISTRICT FINANCES. It shall be the duty of  
6 each district board of health to cause to be made a full and complete audit  
7 of all the financial transactions of the health district no less frequently  
8 than every two (2) years. Such audit shall be ~~made by or under the direction~~  
9 ~~of the legislative council,~~ in accordance with generally accepted auditing  
10 standards and procedures. The district board of health shall include all  
11 necessary expenses for such audit in its budget.

12 SECTION 7. That Section 39-423, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 39-423. BUDGET COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT. The chairmen of  
15 the boards of county commissioners located within the public health dis-  
16 trict are hereby constituted as the budget committee of the public health  
17 district.

18 The district board will submit to the budget committee by the first Mon-  
19 day in June of each year the preliminary budget for the public health dis-  
20 trict and the estimated cost to each county, as determined by the provisions  
21 of section 39-424, Idaho Code.

22 On or before the first Monday in July, there will be held at a time and  
23 place determined by the budget committee a budget committee meeting and pub-  
24 lic hearing upon the proposed budget of the district. Notice of the bud-  
25 get committee meeting and public hearing shall be posted at least ten (10)  
26 full days prior to the date of said meeting in at least one (1) conspicuous  
27 place in each public health district to be determined by the district board  
28 of health. A copy of such notice shall also be published in the official  
29 newspaper or a generally circulated newspaper of each county of such public  
30 health district, in one (1) issue thereof, during such ten (10) day period.  
31 The place, hour and day of such hearing shall be specified in said notice, as  
32 well as the place where such budget may be examined prior to such hearing. A  
33 summary of such proposed budget shall be published with and as a part of the  
34 publication of such notice of hearing in substantially the form required by  
35 section 31-1604, Idaho Code.

36 On or before the first Monday in July, a budget for the public health  
37 district shall be agreed upon and approved by a majority of the budget com-  
38 mittee. Such determination shall be binding upon all counties within the  
39 district and the district itself.

40 Nothing in this section shall prevent the chairman of a board of county  
41 commissioners from appointing a designee to represent him on the budget com-  
42 mittee if the chairman is unable to attend the budget committee meeting, pro-  
43 vided that the designee must be an elected county commissioner from the same  
44 county as the chairman of the board of county commissioners.

1 SECTION 8. That Chapter 4, Title 39, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
2 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
3 ignated as Section 39-424A, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

4 39-424A. ADDITIONAL COUNTY AID TO DISTRICTS -- PROCEDURES. (1) Be-  
5 ginning on January 1, 2022, and each year thereafter, the various boards of  
6 county commissioners shall be responsible for providing additional annual  
7 aid to the public health districts. The amount of such additional county aid  
8 shall not be less than the amount appropriated to the various public health  
9 districts by the legislature for state fiscal year 2021.

10 (2) The manner of apportioning the additional aid from the various  
11 counties shall be calculated pursuant to section 39-424, Idaho Code, unless  
12 an alternative manner of apportioning the additional aid is agreed to by the  
13 budget committees of the various public health districts.

14 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 31-863, Idaho Code, a  
15 county may use any fund balance accruing pursuant to chapter 35, title 31,  
16 Idaho Code, to fund the annual aid provided for in this section.

17 SECTION 9. That Section 39-425, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 39-425. ~~GENERAL STATE AID TO DISTRICTS -- PROCEDURES. (1) Every year,~~  
20 ~~the districts shall submit a request to the legislature for money to be used~~  
21 ~~to match funds contributed by the counties pursuant to section 31-862, Idaho~~  
22 ~~Code, for the maintenance and operation of district health departments.~~  
23 ~~The matching amount to be included in the request shall be a minimum of~~  
24 ~~sixty-seven percent (67%) of the amounts pledged by each county, as adopted~~  
25 ~~as part of the budget for the health districts during the budget formula-~~  
26 ~~tions, as provided for in section 39-423, Idaho Code. If the determined~~  
27 ~~amount of participation by a county would exceed the amount which could be~~  
28 ~~raised applying the maximum levy prescribed in section 31-862, Idaho Code,~~  
29 ~~that county's participation shall be reduced to the maximum amount which can~~  
30 ~~be raised thereby.~~

31 ~~(2) The foregoing provision shall not limit the legislature from autho-~~  
32 ~~rizing or granting additional funds for selected projects in excess of the~~  
33 ~~percentage of participation of general aid granted all health districts.~~

34 ~~(3) General state aid to the various health districts shall be made~~  
35 ~~available from state appropriations, and shall be distributed in the follow-~~  
36 ~~ing manner:~~

37 ~~(a) The amount appropriated to the health districts shall be divided~~  
38 ~~based upon the formula developed and administered by the board of~~  
39 ~~trustees of the Idaho district boards of health.~~

40 ~~(b) One-half (1/2) of the amount appropriated shall be remitted to the~~  
41 ~~public health trust fund on or before July 15; and~~

42 ~~(c) The remaining one-half (1/2) of the amount appropriated shall be~~  
43 ~~remitted to the public health trust fund on or before January 15. The~~  
44 ~~legislature may authorize or grant additional funds to the various pub-~~  
45 ~~lic health districts for selected projects.~~

46 ~~(42) The liability of the state of Idaho to the public health districts~~  
47 ~~and the public health district fund and its divisions is limited to:~~

1           (a) ~~The funds actually authorized and granted to the various public~~  
2 ~~health districts as provided in subsection (1) of this section; and~~

3 ~~(b) The funds actually authorized or granted to the various public~~  
4 ~~health districts as provided for in subsection (21) of this section; and~~

5           (eb) The funds due the various health districts in payment of legally  
6 authorized contracts and agreements entered into between the depart-  
7 ments of the state of Idaho and the various public health districts.

8           ~~(5) If revenues to the state treasury are insufficient to fully meet ap-~~  
9 ~~propriations, and reductions in spending authority have been ordered pur-~~  
10 ~~suant to law, the amount of moneys to match revenues contributed by the coun-~~  
11 ~~ties, pursuant to section 39-423, Idaho Code, which has been appropriated~~  
12 ~~pursuant to this section, shall be reduced by the same percentage rate as~~  
13 ~~other general account appropriations.~~

14           SECTION 10. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
15 declared to exist, Section 1 of this act shall be in full force and effect on  
16 and after passage and approval.

17           SECTION 11. Sections 2 through 9 of this act shall be in full force and  
18 effect on and after January 1, 2022.