

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 10, 2022

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW20

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Vander Woude, Representatives Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Christensen, Lickley, Erickson, Ferch, Mitchell, Chew, Rubel, Burns

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

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

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

**RS 29775C1:** **Rep. Gayann DeMordant**, District 14, presented **RS 29775C1**. The state of emergency has allowed mental and behavioral health care providers to provide telehealth across state lines. This proposed legislation continues that care beyond the state of emergency and adds a sunset date of July 1, 2025. In order to continue to provide care, applicants from other states must meet specified requirements. The disciplinary authority is maintained in Idaho. The issuance of a credential was an important negotiated request.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 29775C1**.

Answering a question, **Rep. DeMordant** said Medicaid payments are relative to the patient's location.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to introduce **RS 29775C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**S 1286:** **Lance Giles**, on behalf of the Idaho Psychological Association (IPA), presented **S 1286**. This legislation for psychological service extenders continues the nearly 30-year regulation process. Service extenders are often graduate students in training or individuals who have finished their doctorate degree and are completing their supervised clinical hours for licensure eligibility as a psychologist. They are an important aid for psychologists and allow more patients to receive treatment.

The Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL) determined the statutory language used by the Board of Psychological Examiners for regulation of service extenders was insufficient. This legislation moves the Board's rule power into another section and adds a definition for service extenders.

Through this legislation, service extenders continue to receive insurance reimbursements. Without this legislation, Idaho would lose its ability to discipline individuals and make this information available to the public. This becomes important because some service extenders treat vulnerable patients in private office settings.

**Mr. Giles**, said, in response to a question, the insurance providers verify service extenders are certified and working under their listed licensed psychologist before reimbursing them.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to send **S 1286** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Dr. Steve Lawyer**, Psychologist, Professor, Idaho State University (ISU). The only clinical psychology doctorate program in Idaho is at ISU. Testifying **in support of S 1286**, he explained the service extender designation is a critical piece to their training model and is fundamental to the provision of much needed mental health (MH) care for Idahoans. Without this mechanism, recruitment abilities and placing students in community sites will be diminished. The students' work extends MH services to many Idahoans who might not otherwise receive these services, given the shortage of licensed providers.

Answering a question, **Dr. Lawyer** explained the reference to a doctoral degree for supervising service extenders is a special designation for faculty working toward their licensure while providing clinical supervision to students.

**Dr. Lynn McArthur**, Psychologist, Behavioral Health (BH) Director, Health West, State Advocacy Coordinator, IPA, testified **in support of S 1286**. Service extenders often come from out of state and stay to work where they received their training hours. Without this legislation passing, Pocatello alone would lose over 20 MH providers. Nearby states who are not able to bill insurance for those provider services are using state funding methods.

**Dr. Elizabeth List**, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Director, Clinical Psychology Program, Northwest Nazarene College, testified **in support of S 1286**. Without passage of this legislation their new training program will suffer because clinical practice is one of the cornerstones of doctoral quality education. Three years of supervised professional experience and one full year of internship are required to graduate. Without this capability the ability to secure supervisors and keep new psychologists in Idaho will become an issue.

**Dr. Susan Martin**, President, IPA, Licensed Psychologist, Program Director, Idaho Psychology Internship Consortium (ID-PIC), testified **in support of S 1286**. The existing service extender permit has insured financial support for psychology intern training. Three factors are strongly associated with a BH professional entering rural practice: a rural connection, having a positive rural setting undergraduate experience, and having targeted post graduate level rural training. This provides the opportunity for completion of psychology internships in rural Idaho, where they will likely continue to live and work.

Answering questions, **Dr. Martin** explained the service extenders submit to insurance companies under their supervising psychologist's license. Her site pays for the service extenders prior to their services being reimbursed by the insurance company.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1286** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ferch** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Erickson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1305:**

**Lance Giles**, on behalf of the IPA, presented **S 1305**. This legislation is for Idaho's participation in the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT). Through PSYPACT psychologists can work across state lines while only being licensed in their home state. Participation is voluntary and all fees will be paid by the applicants. This is another way to meet the BH shortage. PSYPACT psychologists are thoroughly vetted for training and practice history. Qualifications are easily verified on the PSYPACT website. Among the benefits are rural access to psychological services, access to specialists outside of Idaho, and continuity of care for mobile patients, such as U.S. military members.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Lickley** made a motion to send **S 1305** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Dr. Kendra Westerhaus**, Psychologist, testified **in support** of **S 1305**. In her work with children, adolescents, and their families, issues have arisen when patients travel to other states and treatment halts. This includes children who reside with one parent for part of the year. PSYPACT will maintain the treatments and make a difference in their lives.

**Dr. Carrie Eichberg**, Psychologist, IPA, testified **in support** of **S 1305**. As a specialist, she is currently unable to compete for business outside of Idaho. This compact will open avenues for her to help others beyond our borders.

**Dr. Lynn McArthur**, Psychologist, BH Director, Health West, State Advocacy Coordinator, IPA, testified **in support** of **S 1305**. She treats individuals with eating disorders, the deadliest of MH disorders, for whom continuity of care is incredibly important. PSYPACT would help provide consistent care for patients traveling for school or other reasons. With no eating disorder residential treatment or inpatient option, patients attending treatment in Utah could continue with their therapist upon their return to Idaho. She clarified any provider seeking to bill Medicaid would need to become credentialed with Idaho Medicaid.

**Chris Edwards**, Psychologist, testified **in support** of **S 1305**. He provides psychological services for veterans, which includes compensation and pension exams, to allow them to receive service connection and benefits for MH needs. With few psychologists providing this service, he has to maintain licenses in four states and comply with different license requirements. PSYPACT will reduce the barriers to care and allow him to reach out to more veterans.

Responding to a question, **Mr. Edwards** explained he has to pay licensure fees along with adhere to a variety of continuing education requirements for each state. Although there is no maximum for the number of states in which a license can be obtained, there is the financial and continuing education limitation.

**VOTE ON  
MOTION:**

**Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1305** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Erickson** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1327:**

**Rep. Laurie Lickley**, District 25, presented **S 1327**. This legislation addresses some of the implementation holes of **H 316**, 2021, which limited eligibility for the county medical indigent and catastrophic fund. The Idaho Behavioral Health Council (IBHC) worked with stakeholders to achieve this first step in improving the civil commitment process.

**Ross Edmunds**, Administrator, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), Division of BH, continued the presentation of **S 1327** on behalf of the IBHC.

This legislation assigns financial responsibility for pre-commitment and post-commitment costs to the DHW. This includes post-commitment transportation and will improve the method for transporting patients.

The definition of gravely disabled is clarified with a more effective communication of the criteria for the commitment of mentally ill patients. The senior designated examiner definition is added to expand the second designated exam requirements to include experienced licensed master level MH professionals with a minimum of three years of experience doing designated exams.

Notification to committed patient relatives has been clarified to allow assistance in applying for benefits to pay for hospitalization.

**Mr. Edmunds**, answering questions, stated approximately 93% of persons under involuntary commitment are Medicaid eligible. The section referring to adolescents and minors has been moved to the children's mental health section of Idaho Code.

**MOTION:** Rep. Erickson made a motion to send **S 1327** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Kelli Brassfield**, Idaho Association of Counties (IAC), stated the IAC is **in support** of **S 1327**.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Wood** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1327** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Lickley** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

---

Representative Wood  
Chair

---

Irene Moore  
Secretary