

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 03, 2026

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Beiswenger, Burgoyne, Cayler, Fuhriman, Leavitt, McCann, Thompson, Hall (Stone), Tanner(13), Rubel, Egbert

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Wheeler, McCann

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

Chairman Vander Woude called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Egbert** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24 and 25, 2026, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Vander Woude turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Erickson**.

HCR 30: **Rep. John Vander Woude**, District 22, presented **HCR 30** to allow the hiring of a consultant to review and provide input as the managed care contracts are developed, thus providing expertise not available in the legislature. There will be a cost of \$200,000.

Sen. Julie VanOrden, District 30, further explained the Medicaid Review Panel members are not familiar with requests for proposal (RFPs), especially those needed for this \$6B contract. Someone with specific knowledge will be an important asset to help the legislature have a voice in the process.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to send **HCR 30** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Vander Woude stated the funding will be through the legislative body's budget. The use of a consultant will continue beyond the legislative session through the Medicaid Review Panel. Selection will occur as soon as possible to fit within the Department of Health and Welfare's RFP time frame.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Vice Chairman Erickson** called for a vote on the motion to send **HCR 30** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Thompson** and **Leavitt** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chairman Erickson turned the gavel over to **Chairman Vander Woude**.

RS 33537: **Rep. James Petzke**, District 21, presented **RS 33537**, proposed legislation to allow special tobacco selling permits for non-permanent locations. Sales to minors will continue to be restricted. The license fee is expected to be small and not impact tax rates.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to introduce **RS 33537.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33538: **Rep. Brooke Green**, District 18, presented **RS 33538** to provide initial medically-necessary coverage for fertility preservation instead of its current elective status. This is important for cancer patients of child bearing age who often face treatment and family preservation decisions while under extreme emotional and medical pressure. Without insurance coverage they must choose between starting life-saving therapy or the expensive out-of-pocket financing of fertility preservation. While oncology advancements allow patients to live longer, cancer treatments can permanently damage reproductive function.

MOTION: **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to introduce **RS 33538**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

HJM 16: **Rep. Ben Fuhriman**, District 30, presented **HJM 16**. All Medicare insurance plans must apply to the Department of Insurance (DOI) to market their plans. After approval this year, the companies caused nation-wide access and commission payment difficulties for which the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) were unprepared. **HJM 16** states Idaho's support of efforts by the CMS to assure the marketplace is stable and senior citizens have access to plans.

Dean Cameron, Director, DOI, stated the department's goal is to assure seniors have access to coverage. Companies file with the CMS, as stipulated in federal law. They must also be licensed in Idaho, abide by Idaho law, be financially solvent, and follow market-conduct. Because of the market changes, carriers withdrew from the marketplace after they had filed, impacting coverage access for seniors, who have a limited time frame to select coverage. Insurance websites were shut down, agents were discouraged from writing plans, and applications were removed from remaining websites. CMS has no current method for handling this situation, which is now in the court system.

Reps. Redman and **Fuhriman** declared Rule 80, stating a possible conflict of interest.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to send **HJM 16** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Fuhriman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary