



2017 IDAHO LEGISLATURE

UPDATE

January 16, 2017 through January 20, 2017

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For ANA Idaho and Nurse Leaders of Idaho*

Week 2

Each week of the Legislative session takes on a new personality, or a new season. This, the second week, was influenced by disruption in the House as Representative Heather Scott was removed from her committee assignments over comments she made in December. It dominated the news and the hallways of the capitol. This year, as opposed to last year at this time, both the House and Senate are relatively subdued in terms of policy, especially health care policy as the state awaits on a national level the destiny of the Affordable Care Act. Within the Legislature there is some desire for federal block grants to states to completely run the Medicaid program and a draft bill from Senator Steven Thayne for direct primary care to cover those not eligible for Medicaid or subsidized private health insurance. Both ideas have a way to go and are dependent on federal action. This is also the second week of hearings on agency rules. The Board of Nursing rules were heard and passed last week in the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees. The rules become effective on adjournment of the Legislature.

Here are highlights from this week's session:

Board of Nursing Rules – Passed and Become Effective at End of the Legislative Session

Expand Clinical Preceptors for Advanced Practice Nursing Programs

The rule would allow MDs, DOs, and physician assistants practicing in an area relevant to the educational course objectives of the APRN student to be preceptors, thus opening greater educational opportunities for APRNs.

Expand Official Board Notifications to Include e-mail

Given the current use of e-mail as a method of communication, the rule would allow the Board of Nursing to use e-mail, when allowed by the recipient, to receive official notices, such as summons, complaints, and subpoenas, as an alternative to traditional mail.

Clarify "Impairment Related Disability"

The rule expands and clarifies the definition of impairment, including "alcohol" or "drug abuse," by replacing "Impairment Related Disability" with "Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders."

Eliminate the Renewal and Fee for Emeritus Status Licensure



Emeritus Licensure is a classification available to retired or non-practicing nurse, allowing them to continue to use their license designation (RN, LPN, APRN), but not allowed to actively practice.

Current rules assess a \$25 fee every two years to renew an Emeritus license. The new rule would eliminate the renewal fee, and an associated bill would eliminate the necessity to renew the Emeritus license every two years, making the Emeritus status a lifetime designation.

Report on the Idaho Healthcare Exchange

Wednesday, Pat Kelly, Executive Director of *Your Health Idaho*, the Idaho Healthcare Exchange, provided an overview for the House Health & Welfare Committee. The exchange is the state portal for those seeking to purchase health insurance. Idaho was the first fully independent healthcare exchange. Through the exchange, those who are under 400% of the poverty level, qualify for federal subsidy to purchase health insurance. According to Kelly, 86% of those enrolling through the exchange receive federal subsidy, most enrolling in “Silver” plans with an average monthly cost of just over \$600. The exchange has enrolled 90,000, with 78,000 receiving subsidies. Kelly touted the efficiency of the Idaho exchange along with the ability to provide over 200 plans offered by several insurance companies. This contrasts with several other states with limited plans and where insurance providers have pulled out of the exchange. Questioned what the impact would be if the Affordable Care Act is fully repealed and not replaced, what would the impact on Idaho citizens receiving subsidy through the exchange? Kelly report the impact would be a loss of more than \$200M to Idaho citizens.

ANA Idaho and Nurse Leaders of Idaho Legislative Agenda

- Assure access to quality care for all, including women’s health, mental health, suicide prevention, chronic care management, and medications. Address the needs of those who do not qualify for health coverage.
- Ensure all children are given access to curative treatment despite faith-based restrictions. Continue funding for children’s mental health.
- Assure nurses in Idaho have access to necessary resources to provide safe, competent appropriate and timely patient care. Assure nursing advocacy for patients “Nurses Protect Patients,” and protect Nurse-Patient interaction and Nursing Judgment.
- Foster a professional workplace environment that is safe and rewarding for nurses.
- Recognizing the attrition of experienced nurses in Idaho, support nursing education to attract and retain nurses, and provide for academic progression and professional advancement opportunities.
- Support policies that engage patients in their health decision-making and employ an inter-disciplinary teamwork approach to coordination of care.
- Make nursing leadership visible and indispensable as a resource for solving complex healthcare needs for our state, our communities and our institutions.



CALL TO ACTION

Nurses Day at the Idaho State Capitol

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

11:00 – 12:00 Preparation, Message Points

12:00 – 1:00 Visit with Senators and Representatives – First Floor Rotunda

Individual appointments with Senators and Representatives throughout the day

Nurses Day at the Capitol is an opportunity to build awareness for nursing and advocate for better healthcare.

As you hear of issues or have question about the legislature, please e-mail

mcgraneconsulting@gmail.com.