



2017 IDAHO LEGISLATURE

UPDATE

January 9, 2017 through January 13, 2017

*Through a partnership between **Nurse Leaders of Idaho** and the **ANA Idaho**, **Michael McGrane, RN**, will be attending House and Senate committee meetings, monitoring bills and advocating on behalf of Nursing with legislators and state executive officials at the capitol. Mike holds a degree in economics from the University of Utah, and a bachelor degree and master degree in Nursing from Idaho State University. Mike recently retired with over 30 years in emergency, critical care and flight nursing.*

Throughout the 2017 Idaho Legislative Session, Nurse Leaders of Idaho and ANA Idaho will provide periodic updates on legislation and activities of interest to nurses, especially in healthcare policy. In addition to these Updates, e-mail communications will alert NLI and ANA Idaho members to take action in communicating to legislators about bills of interest.

*Located at the end of the Updates, is a **Call to Action** section that will provide background information to assist in communicating with legislators. This week's Call to Action provides information on how to navigate the Idaho State Legislature webpage, find contact information for legislators and other elected officials, and suggestions on how to deliver a clear message.*

Session Opening

Governor's State of the State Address

The 2017 legislative session began Monday, January 9th with the Governor's State of the State address. Here are highlights of Governor Otter's message and budget:

Revenue

The State is projecting \$152M increase (4.6% over last year) in the general fund. Idaho is operating on a surplus due primarily to economic growth.

Public Education

- **\$1.7B K-12 education budget (\$101M or 6.4% increase over last year).**
- **\$58M for the third year of the teacher pay career ladder initiative.**
- **\$10M for classroom technology.**
- **\$11M for professional development and career counseling.**
- **\$2M for reading development.**



Higher Education

- **\$6M or 2.2% increase for Colleges and Universities.**
- **\$2.35M or 6.4% increase for Community Colleges.**
- **Focusing on career/technical development, \$35M for higher education facilities including Lewis & Clark State College Career Technical Facility and University of Idaho Agriculture, Food and Environment Facility in the Magic Valley.**

Mental Health

- **\$11.1M to build a new juvenile mental health facility in Boise and renovations at State Hospital South in Blackfoot. This is on the heels of last year's allocation for Mental Health facilities in Coeur d'Alene and Twin Falls and Idaho Falls.**

Health Care

- **\$2.4M to increase the number of medical residency and fellowship positions to address the physician shortage in addition to the 78 residency positions created by the new Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine at the ISU Meridian Campus.**
- **Questioned about alternatives to Medicaid Expansion under the Affordable Care Act to cover 78,000 Idahoans who do not qualify for Medicaid or financial support to purchase health insurance, both the Governor and House and Senate Leadership are taking a "wait and see" approach, waiting for the Trump Administration and Congress to propose alternatives to the Affordable Care Act.**

State Employees

- **The Governor recommended a 3%, merit-based increase for state employees and full coverage of the 7% increase in state employee health insurance premiums.**

Tax Cuts

- **Governor Otter's budget includes \$46M cut in unemployment insurance that is paid by Idaho businesses.**

Legislative Priorities

At the GOP Chairman's Luncheon, Speaker of the House Scott Bedke, and Senate Pro-Tempore Brent Hill, outlined their view on the 2017 Idaho Legislature:

- **Support of 10th Amendment of U.S. Constitution, which delegates responsibilities to the States that are not specifically given to the federal government, including land management and Medicaid**
- **“Wait and See” on Medicaid expansion – Wait for Trump administration and Congress to “Repeal and Replace” the Affordable Care Act before acting on Medicaid expansion.**
- **House Speaker Bedke suggested interest in a proposal for the federal government to issue block grants to the states to fully administer the Medicaid program and creating subsidized primary health care program that would cover the gap population hinged on personal responsibility, drug screening and some work requirement.**
- **Significant tax cuts related to the State’s budget surplus, beyond what Governor Otter has proposed.**
- **Decrease federal regulation: EPA, Land Use, Timber Harvesting, and the Snake River Water Agreement.**

Board of Nursing Rules

In Idaho rules promulgated by the Departments and Professional Boards are presented at the beginning of each session for approval by the legislature. In November of last year, Idaho citizens passed a Constitutional Amendment giving the Legislature authority to approve or reject, in whole or in part, agency administrative rules. While legislative rules review had always been the practice, the Constitutional Amendment secured the practice from judicial review. The legislature has the option of approving or rejecting (but not amending) administrative rules. All administrative rules are heard by committees in both the House and Senate.

Thursday, January 12th, Sandy Evans, Executive Director of the Board of Nursing presented the following rules to the Senate Health & Welfare Committee where they were approved:

Expand Clinical Preceptors for Advanced Practice Nursing Programs

Current rules require clinical preceptors for APRN students to be licensed Advanced Practice Nurses. Clinical opportunities are limited in rural communities which may not have nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists or clinical nurse specialists, but do have physicians and physician assistants. The proposed 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.

Expand Official Board Notifications to Include e-mail

Given the current use of e-mail as a method of communication, the proposed 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 proposed rule would expand and clarify the definition of impairment, including “alcohol” or “drug abuse,” in the rules 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 proposed 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.

Increase Compensation for Members of the Board of Nursing

Since the compensation for members of the Board of Nursing is set in law rather than rule, this is a bill proposed by the Board to increase the daily compensation for Board members from \$50/day to \$75/day. The last increase in compensation for Board members was in 1998 (19 years ago). This would also align with the compensation of other Idaho professional board members.

CALL TO ACTION

Familiarize yourself with the New Idaho Legislature website: www.legislature.idaho.gov

The site includes information on who your legislators are (you can search by your address), and how to contact them. In addition is information on House and Senate Standing Committees, with photos and background information on each legislator. The site also has links to Committee agendas and meeting minutes.