



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Idaho Voices for Children is a statewide organization that develops and promotes a policy agenda that improves child health, education, safety and family economic security.

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Idaho Voices for Children is a proud member of Voices for America's Children



PROGRESS FOR IDAHO'S KIDS

Thank you to all who attended the hearing for the De Facto Custodian Act. The hearing took place in the Senate Judiciary & Rules committee March 1 and 3. Thank you to all IVC members who attended; your presence showed important support for this needed legislation. Testimony was heard and the bill was sent to the 14th Order for amendment and should come to the floor of the Senate this week for 3rd Reading.

The Immunization Assessments bill was signed into law by Governor Otter March 4. The bill was sponsored by Representative Collins and Senator Cameron and is effective immediately.

This law authorizes and enables a board to be created which will assess all health insurance carriers based on the number of insured children. It also creates a fund in the State Treasurer's office which will be used by the state of Idaho to purchase vaccines for insured children and thereby allow insured children and the state of Idaho to benefit from the vaccine purchasing discount available through the federal Centers for Disease Control.

STATUS OF ADDITIONAL BILLS SUPPORTED BY IVC WHICH ARE CURRENTLY IN THE IDAHO STATE LEGISLATURE:

HB 610 Child Protective Act; Sponsor Sen. Lodge, Reps. Block, Wills and Luker

The text of HB 610 can be found here:

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2010/H0610.htm>

Amends the existing Child Protective Act, clarifies definitions and adds new sections authorizing the Department of Health & Welfare to consider placement priority and an expedited placement with a fit and willing relative. The bill passed the House Health and Welfare committee unanimously and is currently in the Senate Health and Welfare Committee with a hearing today.

SB 1335 Immunization Registry; Sponsor Sens. Lodge and McGee, Rep. Wood

The text of SB 1335 can be found here:

<http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2010/S1335.htm>

Amends existing law relating to immunization to remove language regarding a voluntary immunization registry, among other changes. The bill has passed the Senate with 31 votes in favor, 3 votes opposed and 1 vote excused. It has been introduced to the House, and was sent to the Health & Welfare committee on March 3.

IVC WELCOMES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LeANN SIMMONS

The Idaho Voices for Children board of directors is pleased to welcome LeAnn Simmons as IVC's first Executive Director. LeAnn is a longtime advocate for children and brings experience, professionalism and commitment to her work. Prior to joining IVC, she served as the director of education initiatives for six years at the United Way of Treasure Valley.

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We're on the Web!
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To contact an IVC Public Policy committee email, info@idahovoices.org or call the office at 208.336.8993

Child Health Co-chairs:
Dr. Patrice Burgess & Corey Surber

Education Co-chairs:
Jim Everett & Chris Loucks

Child Welfare Co-chairs:
Mike Scholl & Nicole Sirak

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION RELATING TO CHILDREN INTRODUCED TO DATE

The following bills have been introduced to the Idaho legislature.

HB 493: Education – Mastery Advancement Pilot Program

The Master Advancement Pilot Project (MAAP) will provide school districts and students the opportunity and incentive to voluntarily move more rapidly through the educational curriculum. The bill has passed the house with 67 votes in favor, 7 against. It is now awaiting its hearing in the Senate.

HB 499 Paternity Law

Amends existing law relating to paternity to revise provisions as they relate to unmarried biological fathers; to provide that certain disclosures shall be required to be made by unmarried mothers; to revise provisions relating to notices of birth and adoption proceedings; and to provide procedures for unmarried biological fathers relating to claims for paternity and custody. The bill was sent to the House Judiciary & Rules Committee, and has remained in committee since February 11.

HB 523a Juvenile Corrections Act

Amends existing code relating to the Juvenile Corrections Act to provide that the court retains jurisdiction over violations of probation or informal disposition filed prior to a former juvenile's twenty-first birthday. The Act passed the House with 65 votes in favor, 1 against and 4 absent and excused. The bill has been sent to the Senate Judiciary committee.

HB 579 Education

Adds to existing law relating to education to provide for transferring of certain grades and credits to a student's high school transcript and to provide for nonapplication to senior projects. The bill has passed the house unanimously. The bill is now in Senate, awaiting a 3rd reading.

HB 627 Minors/Drugs

Adds to existing law to provide that a person is guilty of a felony for causing a child to ingest or inhale or have contact with certain substances. The bill is in the house Judiciary and Rules Committee as of March 3.

SB 1288 Child Custody

This legislation aims to prevent changes to child custody orders while a parent serving in the military is on an active tour of duty. The bill is currently being reviewed by the Rules and Judiciary Committee.

SB 1290 Injury to Children

Set to increase the maximum sentence from 10 to 20 years for persons convicted of causing injury to a child. The bill is currently being reviewed by the Rules and Judiciary Committee, where it has remained since January 27.

SB1312 The Child Protective Act

Passed the Senate Tuesday, March 2 with 33 ayes, 0 no. The bill has been sent to the House Judiciary committee. Please note there are two bills titled The Child Protective Act: S1312 and House Bill 610. The Senate Child Protective Act amends an existing law relating to the Child Protective Act to provide that the Department of Health and Welfare need not make reasonable efforts to prevent the placement of a child into foster care where a parent has committed an injury to a child that results in a serious or great bodily injury.

SB 1338 Education – Military Children

Adds to existing law relating to education to provide educational opportunity for military children, to provide findings and purpose, to provide rulemaking authority and to provide for a responsible individual. The bill has passed the Senate and House and has been enrolled.

BECOME A CHILD ADVOCATE TODAY!

- Support our work and lend your voice in support of Idaho's 374,000 children (Idaho Kids Count 2007)
- Write your congressperson
- Testify in congress

For more information, contact us or visit us online: www.idahovoices.org/support/join.htm