

HB 2486 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 1/31, 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows pharmacy technicians under the supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccines. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Potential benefit to access

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies that vaccine should be recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Limits ability to bring an action against pharmacist or pharmacy technician for damages for injury, loss or death to acts of willful or wanton misconduct during the administration of vaccine.

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

BACKGROUND:

Pharmacy technicians work under the supervision of pharmacists to ensure the health and safety of their patients. Duties can include locating, dispensing, packing, and labeling a prescribed medication for a patient that is then reviewed for accuracy by a pharmacist before dispensed to the patient. In 2017, Idaho became the first state to allow pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations. The states of Utah and Rhode Island soon followed in granting similar authority.

In an effort to expand the supply of health professionals able to provide vaccinations in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, in October 2020 the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued guidance allowing qualified pharmacy technicians to administer COVID-19 vaccines and childhood immunizations to children three years of age and older regardless of state permissibility. The guidance indicated that pharmacy technicians qualified for immunity under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act of 2020.

House Bill 2486 would allow pharmacy technicians under the supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccines.