

HB 2486 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

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Meeting Dates: 5/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Has minimal fiscal

House vote: Ayes, 48; Nays, 9; Excused, 3

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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 being 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 allows pharmacy technicians to administer vaccines under the supervision of a pharmacist.