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## Med school plan to get fresh look

BOISE — An Idaho Board of Education committee will look at Idaho State University's distributive medical education model today after an interim legislative committee last week recommended the model to the full board for consideration next month.

The joint interim committee on medical education completed more than three months of work last week when it recommended ISU's proposed medical school plan by a 7-1 vote.

The committee's recent decision does not allow ISU to further develop its plan to establish a medical school in Idaho, but has given the university a boost in the process.

However, there are still several steps left ahead for ISU.

If the State Board of Education approves ISU's pitch for a medical program, it then needs to go in front of the Idaho Legislature. With the Legislature's approval, the university can then further develop a plan it will submit to the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, a nationally-recognized accreditation body for medical schools.

But ISU officials don't expect the accreditation process to begin until late next year at the soonest. Medical programs go through three steps before becoming fully accredited. The first step has a program obtain a preliminary accreditation about 12 to 18 months before classes begin. The program then receives a provisional accreditation during its first class' second year, and receives full accreditation by that class' fourth and final year.

The accreditation process requires each school to achieve a particular standard in the curriculum it offers, and the program needs to have a mission, sufficient staff and faculty resources and a support base, such as adequate funding.

ISU's distributive model will utilize the university's existing health science resources to house the first two years of the program. The first half of the students' medical curriculum will mostly involve in-class lectures while the last two years will send them to a clinical site in Idaho to gain hands-on training.

ISU has pitched the idea to include between 50 to 60 students annually.