

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 16, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Riggs, Senators Heider, Lee, Harris, VanOrden (Bair), Zito, Stennett, and Wintrow

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Martin** called the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Mark Watkins - Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.** **Chairman Martin** asked the Committee if there were any objections to approving the gubernatorial appointments. There were none.

MOTION: **Senator Riggs** moved to send the Gubernatorial Appointments of Mark Watkins to the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to the floor with the recommendation he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Britt Raubenheimer - Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.** **Chairman Martin** asked the Committee if there were any objections to approving the gubernatorial reappointment. There were none.

MOTION: **Senator Lee** moved to send the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Britt Raubenheimer to the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to the floor with the recommendation she be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1283 **MEDICAID - Adds to existing law to establish provisions regarding supplemental Medicaid reimbursement for ground emergency medical transportation.** **Vice Chairman Riggs** introduced himself to the Committee. He stated he was there on behalf of the firefighters related to the current reimbursement from medicaid not covering the costs incurred. **Shawn Raynes**, Chief, Ada County Paramedics introduced himself to the Committee. He relayed this bill directed the State Medicaid Office to develop and submit a State Plan Amendment to the Center for Medicaid Services that allowed public EMS providers in Idaho to participate in a supplemental payment program. **Mr. Raynes** noted they had just become aware of a \$56,000 fiscal impact due to administrative cost and the statement of purpose would be modified to reflect this. (see Attachment 1) **Travis Myklebust**, Fire Chief, Lewiston, Idaho, and President, Idaho Fire Chiefs Association (IFCA), introduced himself to the Committee. He detailed the hardships volunteer EMS providers were having. The IFCA believed this bill was a mechanism to help recoup some of the costs and would improve EMS in Idaho while not adding undue hardship to the taxpayers. (see Attachment 2)

TESTIMONY: **Garrett Abrahamson**, introduced himself to the Committee. He stated his support for **S 1283** and offered to answer any technical questions the Committee had.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Stennett** inquired how much closer this would get EMS to full funding. **Vice Chairman Riggs** responded he was not sure but around the 50% mark. **Senator Wintrow** clarified that the only state cost would be the administrative position and there were federal funds available for this program. **Vice Chairman Riggs** confirmed her statement.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **S 1283** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1284 **HEALTH - Amends existing law to raise the age of legal possession and use of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices to 21.** **Jason Kreizenbeck**, Lobby Idaho on behalf of Altria Client Services, introduced himself to the Committee. He provided details regarding the need to align state law with federal laws by raising the Idaho legal age for smoking and e-vapor products to age 21. (see Attachment 3)

TESTIMONY: **Erin Bennett** Director, Government Relations, American Heart Association, introduced herself to the Committee. She indicated they were in opposition of the bill unless there were changes to Idaho Code 39-5703 to remove major penalties on youth for purchase, use or possession and have the penalties placed on the industry. (see Attachment 4)

DISCUSSION: **Senator Stennett** asked for clarification on how this eliminated confusion and difficulties. **Ms. Bennett** stated it had to do with businesses that only sold electronic devices. **Senator VanOrden** asked for clarification of the penalties on those under 21 selling products. **Ms. Bennett** stated the penalties were for consumers under 21. **Vice Chairman Riggs** stated this was a conformity bill. The penalty issues would need to be addressed at a later date. **Senator Zito** stated she had an issue with supporting a bill that takes rights away from adults.

MOTION: **Senator Wintrow** moved to send **S 1284** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** appreciated the effort to align state with federal law. **Senator Stennett** stated she had concerns similar to Senator Zito . She also did not feel the fines including jail were appropriate however she did recognize the need to align with federal law.

VOTE: The motion to send **S 1284** to the floor with a do pass recommendation carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Zito** requested that she be recorded as voting nay. Senators Anthon and Martin to carry on the floor.

S 1285 **HEALTH - Amends existing law to prohibit certain local regulations and taxes relating to tobacco products and electronic smoking devices.** **Pamela Eaton**, President/CEO, Idaho Retailers Association, introduced herself to the Committee. She stated **S 1285** restricted local authorities from implementing regulations that were more restrictive than the state. She reiterated that this bill related to the selling not the public use.

DISCUSSION: In response to Committee questions, **Ms. Easton** responded that even though retailers set their own prices, it was unfair for retailers to have an additional tax in one city that a retailer in another city did not.

TESTIMONY: **Erin Bennett** Director, Government Relations, American Heart Association, introduced herself to the Committee. She testified against bill **S 1285**. (see Attachment 5) **Liz Hatter**, representing the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network introduced herself to the Committee. She reported they were opposed to **S 1285**. (see Attachment 6) **Melinda Merrill**, NW Grocery Association introduced herself to the Committee. She testified in support of **S 1285**. She stated the bill provided uniformity for tobacco distributors. **Ms. Merrill** also explained there were fines and possible loss of license if tobacco distributors failed to follow proper procedures.

MOTION: **Senator Riggs** moved to send **S 1285** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **US Ecology Roy Eigurine**, Attorney Lobbyist, introduced himself to the Committee. He stated that US Ecology had facilities in both Elmore and Owyhee counties and the presentation would cover both specific issues related to current events as well as a micro view of what goes on at the facilities. **Jeff Feeler**, Chairman, President, and CEO, US Ecology, introduced himself to the Committee. **Terry Geis**, Sr Vice President, West Region, US Ecology introduced himself to the Committee. (see Attachment 7)

DISCUSSION: In response to Committee questions, **Mr. Geis** provided an update to the incident from November 2018. He reported the investigation, corrective action, OSHA, and DEQ portions had been completed with the litigation scheduled to be completed in the next few months.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 4:30p.m.

Senator Martin
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary