

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2014

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood(27), Vice Chairman Perry, Representatives Hancey, Henderson, Hixon, Malek, Morse, Romrell, Vander Woude, Rusche, Chew

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Vander Woude

GUESTS: Dain Johnson, Office of the Governor; Joan Cloonan, Board of Social Work Examiners; Heidi Low, Academy of Family Physicians

Chairman Wood(27) called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

H 354: **Roger Hales**, on behalf of the Idaho State Board of Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists, presented **H 354**, legislation that proposes an addition to the Board's authority to promulgate standards and requirement Rules for the use of communication technology in the practice of counseling and marriage and family therapy. The Rules could cover voice, text, e-mail, and video conferencing. They could also address security, confidentiality, and a variety of forms.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

MOTION: **Rep. Morse** made a motion to send **H 354** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Rusche commented that a unified approach needs to be considered by the various licensing boards for an over-arching process for telehealth issues. **Roger Hales** stated the boards supported by the Bureau of Occupational Licenses have a subcommittee of members from each profession who are reviewing possible Rules. He will encourage them to reach out to other medical groups and psychiatrists to achieve consistency.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Wood(27)** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 354** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Romrell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 355: **Roger Hales**, on behalf of the Board of Social Workers Examiners, presented **H 355**, legislation identical to the previous legislation to promulgate communication technology, except that it is in the practice of social work, as it relates to client communication.

Robert Payne, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, testified **in support** of **H 355**, stating he agrees collaboration is the best way to increase accessibility of care in rural communities and provide electronic media supervision.

MOTION: **Rep. Morse** made a motion to send **H 355** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Hancey** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 356: **Roger Hales**, on behalf of the Idaho State Board of Podiatry, presented **H 356**. Clarification is made that exams are national, with the subsequent removal of exam fees, and the Board can discipline an individual in violation of the law and Rules, with a section addressing failure to comply. Additional changes allow the adoption of an active license, clean up archaic language, and allow the Board to charge an original license fee that is less than the renewal fee. New references to the Administrative Procedures Act are added, consistent with other state agencies.

Responding to questions, **Mr. Hales** said the Board's disciplinary action changes provide the flexibility to require additional continuing education and impose disciplinary requirements, in compliance with the Administrative Procedures Act. Membership in the state association is voluntary; however, a license is necessary to practice in Idaho. The Board can always be contacted when issues arise.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

MOTION: **Rep. Morse** made a motion to send **H 356** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Morse** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Representative Wood(27)
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary