

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 31, 2013

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Nuxoll, Senators Lodge, Hagedorn, Guthrie, Martin, Lakey, Bock and Schmidt

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:**

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 Heider** convened the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

GUB APPT: **Chairman Heider** asked if there were comments or discussion relative to the Gubernatorial Appointment of Mr. Allen Schneider to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. **Senator Bock** commented that he was impressed with Mr. Schneider's qualifications.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to send the Gubernatorial Appointment of Allen Schneider to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to the floor with recommendation that it be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Martin** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**. **Senator Schmidt** will carry the appointment on the floor.

DOCKET NO. 24-2301-1201 **Chairman Heider** turned the meeting over to **Vice Chairman Nuxoll**, who recognized **Mr. Roger Hales** to present **Docket No. 24-2301-1201** (pending fee rule) relating to rules of the Speech and Hearing Services Licensure board. The Board is changing its rules to establish an inactive license status and to add a reduced fee. The rule changes to the provisional permit section clarify the permit requirements and limitations for each licensure category. There is no impact on general funds. The impact on dedicated funds will depend on the number of licensees who choose to convert active licenses to inactive licenses.

Mr. Hales reviewed changes to the rule and called for questions or comments. **Senator Hagedorn** questioned the justification of the \$65 inactive status fee and possible reduction of supervised hours of training. **Mr. Hales** said the \$65 fee was in line with other boards' fees and was applied to maintenance costs. Regarding the required hours of training, **Mr. Hales** replied that the law does require this education and is consistent with other states' rules.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-2301-1201**. **Senator Schmidt** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**; **Senator Martin** voted nay.

DOCKET NO. 2402701-1201 **Mr. Hales** reviewed **Docket No. 24-2701-1201** (pending fee rule) relating to the Idaho State Board of Massage. The 2012 legislature passed Senate Bill 1295, which created the State Board of Massage Therapy. These proposed rules implement the provisions of Title 54, Chapter 40, Idaho Code. The board, created in July 2012, regulates the practice of massage therapists in the state and the rule establishes fees for application, original license, annual renewal, endorsement, duplicate license and reinstatement. The fees will be used by the Board of Massage Therapy to administer the provisions of the statute.

Mr. Hales outlined the scope of the rule, including meetings, code of ethics, standards of practice, organization and operation of the board, fees, examinations and continuing education. A question-and-answer period ensued concerning ethics and required waiting period before a massage therapist could engage in a personal relationship with a previous client, which was set at 12 months. He said the number of licensees expected to register this year is estimated to be between 800 and 1,000.

Mr. Hales introduced State Board of Massage Therapy member **Linda Chatburn**, who discussed fees, requisite hours of training and initial education needed to become a licensed massage therapist (typically high school graduation or GED, or equivalent from another country). **Senator Martin** asked Ms. Chatburn to explain her reasons for supporting this rule. **Ms. Chatburn** replied that massage therapists are becoming health care advisors and have reached the level where they are now working in tandem with other health care providers, resulting in the need for regulations. **Senator Schmidt** asked about the major focus on exams. **Mr. Hales** said the exams emphasize specific knowledge and skills based on principles of Western medicine.

MOTION: **Chairman Heider** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-2701-1201**. **Senator Lakey** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**.

RS 21828 **Vice Chairman Nuxoll** turned the meeting over to **Chairman Heider**, who recognized **Representative Christy Perry** for presentation of **RS 21828**, which relates to a change in the delivery date of food stamps. Delivery would be adjusted from single-day issuance to multi-day issuance, occurring over the course of ten days. **RS 21828** was approved by the House of Representatives during the 2012 legislative session. **Representative Perry** reviewed the fiscal impact, estimated to be \$683,200 for implementation and the first year of operation. Ongoing costs are estimated at \$231,600 per year, with that amount being split between state and federal funds. She said some of the cost was for embossing recipients' names onto cards, which will help cut down on fraud. The initial startup money and first year of operation money, received from the federal government as a program "bonus," is being held in reserve by the Department of Health and Welfare. The program would begin March 1, 2014.

Senator Lodge expressed a strong feeling that the money would be better spent educating the individuals who receive food stamps on how to purchase food that is healthy and inexpensive and how to manage their budget throughout the month. **Senator Lodge** also expressed concern that the change will cause confusion and will result in a profusion of phone calls, which the Health and Welfare Department may not be staffed to handle. **Representative Perry** agreed there are other issues that need to be addressed and offered to provide answers to the issues raised when the bill is heard by the committee.

MOTION: **Senator Hagedorn** moved to print **RS 21828**. **Senator Nuxoll** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Chairman Heider** recognized **Ms. RoseAnna Holliday**, President of Idaho Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy). **Ms. Holliday** introduced associates and students in attendance and referred to the materials distributed to committee members (Attachment 1). She reviewed the registered dietitians and students who are in several committee members' districts and emphasized the ultimate goal of the Academy is to reduce health care costs. She said the Academy is the premier source for reliable, objective food and nutrition information in Idaho with a vision of optimizing the health of Idaho's citizens through education, advocacy and community outreach. The Academy is a nonprofit organization representing over 450 Idaho licensed, registered dietitians.

Ms. Holliday introduced **Ms. SeAnne Safaii**, President-elect of the Academy, who said the majority of those graduating from the Academy find jobs in Idaho, and there will be approximately 20 graduates this year. The primary goal of a dietitian, she said, is to help people. **Ms. Safaii** said good nutrition and exercise is key to preventing many diseases, resulting in a large savings in health care costs. She also said the dietitians work collaboratively with other health care providers and are unique in that they look at each individual from a genetic and biological viewpoint.

Senator Martin asked if there is a member of the Academy on the State Board of Health or on a state agency related to health care. **Ms. Safaii** said there are members who sit on a variety of county boards but not on state boards specifically. **Senator Guthrie** asked if there is a way to educate food stamp recipients on nutrition; if so, how? **Ms. Safaii** said she is not an expert on food stamps but did elaborate on a program called "Cooking Matters," which is geared toward educating both adults and children on how to prepare healthful meals.

Ms. Karen Martz, a registered dietitian, was called upon for further information. **Ms. Martz** explained that there are programs on food nutrition that work with families throughout the state wherever they have extension programs. A discussion ensued concerning education on nutrition. **Senator Hagedorn** asked if there is a transition program to ensure that people who have lost weight through a nutrition and exercise program stay healthy and make the change permanent. **Ms. Safaii** said that it has been found that the best way for anyone to stay on a weight-loss program is if it is community-based.

Chairman Heider thanked the presenters for the information and called on Ms. Kathie Garrett, Chair of the Idaho Council on Suicide Prevention.

PRESENTATION: **Ms. Garrett** referred the committee to materials distributed prior to the meeting (Attachments 2 and 3). The Idaho Suicide Prevention Hotline (ISPH) was launched on November 26, 2012, and continues to establish operations, administration and infrastructure while looking ahead to expending its hours of operation and working on sustainable funding plans. **Ms. Garrett** summarized ISPH's accomplishments and activities from October 2012 through January 2013, reviewing number of calls, repeat callers and other statistics. She emphasized that suicide is one of the easiest deaths to prevent. She said the ISPH is run entirely by volunteers. The agency currently has 49 volunteers. That number will need to be increased to 56 trained volunteers if it is to run from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and to 90 volunteers in order to run 24/7. **Ms. Garrett** recognized Senator Hagedorn as being instrumental in furthering the momentum of ISPH. A question-and-answer period included topics regarding costs, statistics and the council's ability to obtain data from hospitals.

Chairman Heider thanked Ms. Garrett for her presentation.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business to come before the committee, **Chairman Heider** adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Senator Heider
Chairman

Linda Hamlet
Secretary