

MINUTES  
**SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW53

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Bair, Vice Chairman Guthrie, Senators Brackett, Tippetts, Rice, Nonini, Patrick, and Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Durst

**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 Bair** called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**MINUTES:** The committee reviewed the minutes from March 5, 2013.

**MOTION:** **Senator Patrick** moved to approve the minutes from March 5, 2013. **Senator Rice** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**H 266** **Chairman Bair** introduced **Dr. Brett Bingham**, Veterinarian (vet), President of the Idaho Veterinarian Medical Association, who presented **H 266**. This bill clarifies the Veterinary Practice Act to make sure veterinarians are able to prescribe, dispense, deliver or administer drugs and medicines in the scope of their practice. When the Board of Pharmacy rewrote some of their rules last year, they discovered that Idaho Code § 54-2103-34(a) does not give veterinarians the authority to dispense medications, as the word "dispense" is not in the practice act. Vets have been dispensing medications, as part of their practice, for over 100 years, and the Pharmacy Board has allowed them to continue this practice. **Dr. Bingham** stood for questions.

**Senator Patrick** and **Senator Brackett** asked if this current law means people have to get medications from the medical pharmacy instead of supply stores or veterinarians. **Dr. Bingham**, responded that if the Board of Pharmacy decided to enforce this law as it is written, then all vets would have to shut down their pharmacies and provide a prescription to animal owners that would have to be filled at the medical pharmacy. Medical pharmacies don't carry any of the medicines vets need nor are their pharmacists educated in Veterinarian Pharmacology. Owners could no longer get medicines dispensed from the supply stores or traveling vets.

**Senator Tippetts** asked if the drugs are the same for animals as humans, including narcotics, and what kind of security measures are in place. **Dr. Bingham**, responded that vets have access to almost all narcotics that are available to people. Veterinarians are regulated by the Board of Pharmacy and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the same as for humans. Narcotics must be kept under lock and key at all times, they have to log all medicines as they are dispensed.

**Senator Rice** asked about problems concerning feed stores filling prescriptions. **Dr. Bingham**, said this will not be a problem and will not change. vets will continue to write prescriptions and feed stores will be able to fill them. This proposed legislation will continue to allow vets to dispense medications out of their trucks. The Pharmacy Board recognizes that there are many outlets that are not pharmacies, like feed stores, veterinarian hospital or the mobile dispensing unit that goes out to farms. These are called Prescriber Drug Outlets (PDO) and must obey a certain standard of laws that are separate from a pharmacy.

**MOTION:**        **Senator Guthrie** moved to send **H 266** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation.  
**Senator Brackett** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.  
**Senator Guthrie** will carry the bill.

**ADJOURNED:**   **Chairman Bair** adjourned the meeting at 8:20 a.m.

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Senator Bair  
Chairman

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Denise McNeil  
Secretary