

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 19, 2014

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: 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 Heider** called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. and requested the Secretary take a silent roll call.

S 1288 **Relating to Nurses: Sandra Evans, Executive Director of the Idaho Board of Nursing**, explained this legislation is intended to add to and improve the Board's grounds for denying or disciplining a nursing license. As currently written, the Board's disciplinary statute allows the Board to deny a license or discipline an existing license when the applicant or licensee has had a nursing license suspended or revoked in another jurisdiction; however, the statute does not expressly permit the Board to take action when another form of discipline has been imposed. This legislation also addresses a recent court decision holding the Board's disciplinary authority as insufficient to permit discipline of a nurse for sexual misconduct, or sexual exploitation by a licensee, as specific grounds for discipline.

MOTION: **Senator Lakey** moved that **S 1288** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Bock**, seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Martin will carry the bill on the floor.

H 395 **Relating to Medicaid: Paul Leary, Administrator and State Medicaid Director**, informed the committee that this legislation restores cuts to Medicaid made during the 2011 Legislative Session in House Bill 260. The services being restored relate to preventative dental services to adults with disabilities or special health needs. This legislation will cost \$1,418,100 to the state General Fund which is included in the Medicaid budget request for FY 2015.

MOTION: **Senator Bock** moved that **H 395** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Guthrie**, seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Hagedorn will carry the bill on the floor.

H 390 **Relating to Plats and Vacations: Barry Burnell, Administrator, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality**, stated the purpose of this legislation is to make a technical correction to the definition of sanitary restriction. The current definition of sanitary restriction, Idaho Code 50-1301(15), references the "Board of Health and Welfare by its administrator" when it should reference the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

MOTION: **Senator Lakey** moved that **H 390** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Martin**, seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 391

Relating to the Wastewater Facility Loan Account and the Drinking Water Loan Account: Barry Burnell Administrator, DEQ, explained the purpose of this legislation is to amend state revolving fund provisions to allow fund transfers between drinking water and wastewater loan accounts so all funds may be put to immediate use by the state. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) allocates low interest loans from two revolving loan funds, one dedicated to drinking water systems and one dedicated to wastewater systems. Historically, there has been much greater demand for loans from the wastewater fund than from the drinking water fund. Over the past two years, the drinking water fund has been underutilized, leaving money unallocated after all requests have been funded while wastewater loan requests exceed funding availability. This legislation will allow the Board of Environmental Quality, through DEQ, the flexibility to transfer funds between the two loan accounts. This is a federally approved practice that several other states have already begun utilizing. A net economic gain is expected for the state by maximizing state revolving fund implementation and making more resources available to communities.

MOTION: **Senator Guthrie** moved that **H 391** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Hagedorn**, seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Guthrie will carry the bill on the floor.

ADJOURNED: **Chairman Heider** thanked all who attended and the concepts brought forward. He adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

Senator Heider
Chair

Jennifer Novak
Secretary of the Senate