

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 02, 2015

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Martin, Senators Johnson (Lodge), Nuxoll, Hagedorn, Tippetts, Lee, Schmidt and Lacey

**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 of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed Richard Armstrong.

PRESENTATION: **Richard Armstrong**, Director, Department of Health and Welfare (Department), presented on Fun, Facts, and Myths (see attachment 1). He said that welfare is steeped in mythology rather than facts.

Mr. Armstrong said most welfare recipients are not drug users. Idaho does screen for drugs and sends users to drug treatment, which helps both the welfare recipient and the children.

Regarding child support, the Department has created many effective tools to recoup child support money from the non-custodial parent to the custodial parent. Most of the problems occur because people just don't have the money.

Mr. Armstrong said that getting too many vaccines at one time will not overwhelm a child's immune system. Studies by the Centers for Disease Control have shown, in theory, healthy infants could safely get up to 100,000 vaccines at once, provided the inoculations are administered correctly. For airborne diseases such as measles, if 90 percent to 95 percent of individuals are immunized, the general public is in safe territory.

Mr. Armstrong emphasized that drug use is voluntary but drug addiction is not. He said addictive drugs can forever alter the brain. Prescription pain medications, which are everywhere, present the greatest problem; more overdoses occur with prescription pain medication than heroin and cocaine combined.

Mr. Armstrong continued his examination of welfare fiction which included the myths of foster parenting requirements, welfare queens, Medicaid eligibility, the food stamp program (SNAP), and Ebola fears.

Chairman Heider called on Susan Miller for her presentation on **RS 23202**.

RS 23202

Susan Miller, Executive Director, Board of Dentistry (Board), presented **RS 23202**, which amends Idaho Code § 54-923 and provides for revocation of a license for conviction of a crime. The proposed amendment would add a requirement that licensees must report to the Board any felony conviction within 30 days of conviction. Currently there is no requirement for a licensee to report such information other than in an initial application or biennial renewal application. For that reason, it is not unusual for the Board to learn of a conviction months after the event.

Ms. Miller said the Board feels it is in the interest of public safety to add this requirement, which is why the amendment is being brought back for further consideration with revised wording that would be more acceptable to the Committee.

MOTION: **Senator Hagedorn** moved to send **RS 23202** to print. **Vice Chairman Martin** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 23211 **Ms. Miller** addressed **RS 23211**. A portion of Idaho Code § 54-920 concerns renewal of licenses, and § 54-921 relates to reinstatement of a license. This amendment clarifies that failure to renew a license will result in the expiration of a license and that an expired license will be cancelled if not renewed within the 30-day grace period as set forth in statute.

Ms. Miller explained the legislation also establishes requirements to reinstate a cancelled license if it is cancelled for less than two years and requires reinstatement if cancelled for longer than two years.

Senator Hagedorn asked about a strikeout referring to renewal notifications. **Ms. Miller** explained that each licensee receives renewal notices prior to the renewal date, in addition to a final notice, sent by certified mail.

MOTION: **Senator Schmidt** moved to send **RS 23211** to print. **Vice Chairman Martin** seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Senator Hagedorn** made a substitute motion to hold **RS 23211** until the end of the week when the bill's sponsor can provide information in the statute related to notification requirements.

Ms. Miller referred the Committee to the pages of the rule that fully define notification requirements.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Chairman Heider** called for a roll call vote on the substitute motion to hold **RS 23211** until the end of the week to receive additional information on notification requirements. **Senators Johnson, Nuxoll, Hagedorn** and **Vice Chairman Martin** voted aye. **Senators Tippets, Lee, Schmidt, Lacey** and **Chairman Heider** voted nay. The motion **failed**.

ROLL CALL VOTE: **Chairman Heider** called for a roll call vote on the original motion to send **RS 23211** to print. **Senators Johnson, Hagedorn, Tippets, Lee, Schmidt, Lacey** and **Chairman Heider** voted aye. **Senator Nuxoll** voted nay. The motion **carried**.

RS 23220 **Kandee Yearsley**, Child Support Bureau Chief, Department of Health and Welfare (Department), Division of Welfare, presented **RS 23220**, which pertains to the collection of child support and the reimbursement of public assistance. Rules relating to child care, Temporary Assistance for Families in Idaho (TAFI), and Medicaid require benefit program recipients who receive benefits for themselves and/or their children to cooperate with Child Support Services.

Ms. Yearsley explained the reason for this requirement is to either obtain reimbursement for funds expended on behalf of the family or to assist public assistance recipients with enforcement of their court order to provide income into the household, which could reduce or eliminate these families' reliance on future public assistance. The rule change would specify that a benefit recipient does not have the authority to forgive or to receive direct payment of child support during the time they are receiving public assistance.

Ms. Yearsley asked the Committee to approve **RS 23220** and stood for questions.

Mr. Scott Keim, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Health and Welfare (Department), took the podium to answer Committee members' questions relating to the legal terminology in the amendment.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Martin** moved to print **RS 23220**. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Hagedorn** asked to be recorded as voting nay.

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

Senator Heider
Chair

Erin Denker
Secretary

Jeanne' Clayton
Assistant