

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 04, 2015

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Heider, Vice Chairman Martin, Senators Johnson(Lodge), Nuxoll, Hagedorn, Tippets, 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 Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:10 p.m.

**VOTE ON GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Senator Tippets** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Michael Gibson to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Schmidt** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Hagedorn will carry the appointment on the floor.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT HEARING:** **Chairman Heider** welcomed Travis Beck of Idaho Falls, who was appointed to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (Commission) to serve a term commencing April 3, 2014, and expiring July 1, 2016.

**Travis Beck** took the podium to outline his professional history as a legally blind individual. He said he has a good understanding of what life is like for the blind, because he has been legally blind since birth. He said he first became involved with the Commission during a summer work program at age 16. He went through the Commission's mobility and training program at age 19 and is currently a vendor with the Commission's Business Enterprise Program (BEP). He has served approximately six years on the board of the Commission.

**Mr. Beck** answered questions from the Committee, which centered mostly on the roadblocks and challenges a blind person encounters. **Mr. Beck** said there is no one roadblock greater than another. He said the challenges are a series of roadblocks that include schooling, training, and educating employers. **Mr. Beck** explained that a licensed BEP vendor is a designation created under the Ralph Shepherd Act, which gives priority to blind individuals to operate food facilities and vending.

**VOTE ON GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Vice Chairman Martin** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of Travis Beck to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Lacey** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Vice Chairman Martin** will carry the appointment on the floor.

**PASSED THE GAVEL:** Chairman Heider passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Martin for rules review.

**DOCKET NO.  
16-0202-1401**

**Dr. Curtis Sandy** introduced himself as Chair, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Physician Commission of Portneuf Medical Center in Pocatello, and Chair for the Idaho EMS Physicians Commission. He said the EMS Physicians Commission was formed by the passage of H 8585 during the 2006 Legislature. He explained the purpose of the EMS Physicians Commission, which is to establish standards for the scope of practice and medical supervision for licensed EMS personnel and organizations.

**Dr. Sandy** said **Docket No. 16-0202-1401** incorporates the latest version of the EMS Standards Manuals (see attachment 1). He outlined the changes in the rules review book and said the changes align the definition of EMS with the definition in Idaho Code § 5-1012. He said all changes are merely housekeeping updates.

**Dr. Sandy** asked the Committee to approve **Docket No. 16-0202-1401** and stood for questions.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Nuxoll** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0202-1401**. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion was carried by **voice vote**.

**PASSED THE  
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Martin passed the gavel back to Chairman Heider.

**Chairman Heider** invited Tamara Prisock to present the next agenda item.

**RS 23218**

**Tamara Prisock**, Administrator, Division of Licensing and Certification, Department of Health and Welfare (Department), presented **RS 23218**, which relates to residential care and amends to provide that a change in lease does not require facility licensing and to make technical corrections.

**Ms. Prisock** explained that changes in the lease of property on which the facility is located do not affect the actual operation of the facility or the delivery of care to the residents and should not require relicensure of the facility. She said that removing the requirements for a facility to become relicensed when there has been a change in lease will result in savings of both the facility's staff time and money and savings in the Department's staff time.

**Ms. Prisock** asked the Committee to send **RS 23218** to print and stood for questions.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Tippets** moved to print **RS 23218**. **Senator Hagedorn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**RS 23263**

**Ms. Prisock** presented **RS 23263**, relating to certified family homes. The proposed change in statute would exempt homes approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as Medical Foster Homes (MFH) from state certification for the care of dependent veterans who are not receiving Medicaid. Homes that care for non-veterans in addition to veterans would still require state certification.

**Ms. Prisock** said MFHs that care only for veterans who do not receive Medicaid, should not be subject to inspections by both the Department and the VA. She recapped that homes that care for non-veterans in addition to veterans and homes that care for veterans receiving Medicaid would still require certification by the Department.

**Ms. Prisock** asked the Committee to send **RS 23263** to print and stood for questions.

**Senator Schmidt** asked how many entities would be affected. **Ms. Prisock** answered that the program is new to the VA. It is just getting started in the Treasure Valley and will eventually expand to other areas if it is successful. She said at this time the Department is not exempting the homes.

**Senator Schmidt** said he would like more information when the bill comes before the Committee. **Ms. Prisock** deferred to Cindy Bahora, Social Worker at the Boise VA Medical Center and MFH Coordinator, who was in the audience.

**Ms. Bahora** said the VA is hoping at the outset to have 15 to 20 homes, some of which would be certified family homes and some not.

**Chairman Heider** asked if these homes will be supervised by both the VA and the Department or if the VA has priority. **Ms. Bahora** said the VA would not subject a facility to state certification after the home has been approved by the VA as a MFH, provided it is caring only for veterans who do not receive Medicaid.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Hagedorn** moved to print **RS 23263**. **Senator Nuxoll** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business, **Chairman Heider** adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

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Senator Heider  
Chair

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Erin Denker  
Secretary

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Jeanne' Clayton  
Assistant