

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2015

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Nuxoll and Lacey

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 asked Senator Lee to lead approval of the Minutes.

MINUTE APPROVAL: **Senator Lee** moved to approve the Minutes of January 19, 2015. **Senator Schmidt** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTE APPROVAL: **Senator Lee** moved to approve the Minutes of January 21, 2015. **Senator Schmidt** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Chairman Heider welcomed Tamara Priscock for the presentation of the next agenda items.

S 1042 **Tamara Priscock**, Administrator for the Division of Licensing and Certification, Department of Health and Welfare (Department), presented **S 1042**, which amends existing law related to residential care and assisted living facilities. **Ms. Priscock** explained the Division of Licensing and Certification worked with assisted living providers, advocates, and other stakeholders to streamline the licensing process, clarify requirements, and strengthen some of the requirements to better ensure residents' health and safety.

Ms. Priscock said changes in the lease of a property on which the facility is located do not affect the actual operation of the facility or the delivery of care to the residents. For this reason, changes in a lease should not require relicensure of the facility when ownership changes. She said removing the requirement for a facility to become relicensed when a lease is changed would save staff time and money for the facilities and save staff time for the Department.

Ms. Priscock asked the Committee to send **S 1042** to the floor with a do pass recommendation and stood for questions.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Martin** moved that **S 1042** be sent to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Hagedorn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1043 **Ms. Priscock** presented **S 1043**, which would exempt homes approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as medical foster homes from state certification for the care of dependent veterans who are not receiving Medicaid. She explained that a medical foster home is a private home approved by the VA where a caregiver provides long-term primary health care to veteran residents with serious chronic disease and disability. Homes approved by the VA as medical foster homes must meet requirements that are more strict than state requirements for a certified family home, and the homes are regularly inspected by the VA.

Ms. Priscock said for medical foster homes that care only for veterans who do not receive Medicaid, it is not logical to subject these homes to inspections by both the Department and the VA. She emphasized that homes caring for non-veterans, in addition to veterans receiving Medicaid, would still require state certification through the Department.

Ms. Priscock asked the Committee to send **S 1043** to the floor with a do pass recommendation and stood for questions.

Senator Tippets asked if facilities would be receiving two inspections under this amendment where only one inspection is now required. **Ms. Priscock** explained that the Medical Foster Home Program is a new program being launched by the VA starting in the Treasure Valley and will expand around the State if the program is successful. She said as VA medical foster homes are recruited and established, the Department will continue to work closely with the VA to minimize duplication as much as possible.

MOTION: **Senator Hagedorn** moved to send **S 1043** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Hagedorn will carry **S 1042** and **S 1043** on the floor.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Heider** adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Senator Heider
Chair

Erin Denker
Secretary

Jeanne' Clayton
Assistant