

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 15, 2017

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Wood, Vice Chairman Packer, Representatives Hixon, Perry, Vander Woude, Redman, Gibbs, Blanksma, Hanks, Kingsley, Zollinger, Chew, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Vander Woude

GUESTS: Mike Kane, ID Bd of Dentistry; Elizabeth Criner, ISDA

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2017, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

S 1126aa: **Sen. Bart Davis**, District 33, Idaho Falls, presented **S 1126aa**. The Safe Haven Act, adopted in 2001, specifies locations where a newborn child can be surrendered without prosecution for abandonment. This Legislation extends the statute language to include fire stations, including tribal, and Emergency Medical Services, including stand alone facilities, as locations authorized to receive an infant. This inclusion provides the advantage of their medical training without the inclusion of law enforcement. The rest of the statute remains the same, including the putative father's rights.

As of 2001 a total of twenty-eight safe haven babies have been surrendered. Of those babies, twenty-five have been adopted, one died from birth complications, and two are in pre-adoptive foster care. The safe haven need still exists, as evidenced by the death of a child left at the side of the road last year.

Answering questions, **Sen. Davis** said the thirty-days from birth surrender limit was selected because this time frame has proven to have the greatest likelihood for such a need. The licensing requirement assures the appropriate training for the care and processing of the surrendered child.

Chairman Wood turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Packer**.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **S 1126aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Responding to questions, **Sen. Davis** said the Safe Haven Act does not solve the issue of child abuse or neglect. Instead, it offers a parent, who has reached a certain point, the ability to surrender a child without hesitation, protecting the infant. The parent is not prosecuted for abandonment when a safe haven location is used. However, if a surrendered infant is obviously abused, the parent is not protected from prosecution for the abuse.

Rep. Hixon commented, **in support** of the motion, regarding the need for additional media coverage to get the information out to potential young mothers to assure they go to the right location.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Packer** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1126aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Vice Chairman Packer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1038aa: **Michael Kane**, on behalf of the Idaho State Board of Dentistry, presented **S 1038aa**, Legislation to give the Board of Dentistry the authority to respond quickly in an emergency, public danger situation. Although not a common practice, a recent situation required their immediate action and discovered their inability to proceed. This authority is similar to what other agencies have and the language is taken from the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Answering questions, **Mr. Kane**, stated the Senate amended the right to appeal process, clarifying the right to an interlocutory appeal would still exist. Other actions beyond emergency proceedings would include temporary license suspension until the full hearing could occur.

Elizabeth Criner, Idaho State Dental Association, testified in support of **S 1038aa** to provide a tool to protect both their professional integrity and the public.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to send **S 1038aa** to the floor a **DO PASS** recommendation.

For the record, no one indicated their desire to testify.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Vice Chairman Packer** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1038aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Zollinger** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Representative Packer
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary