

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2019

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Souza, Senators Heider, Lee, Harris, Bayer, Jordan, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Burtenshaw

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 Martin** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 2:05 p.m.

H 180 **Representative Blanksma** introduced **H 180**, establishing a syringe and needle exchange program, and asked for a do pass recommendation. She emphasized that it was not a needle giveaway, only an exchange program.

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Souza** inquired why a private program needs legislation. **Representative Blanksma** explained that it was to protect exchange program participants from possible criminal charges.

TESTIMONY: **Rachele Klein**, Business Development Manager, Republic Services, testified in support of this bill, which would help reduce the risk of needle stick injuries to waste handlers.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Souza** moved to send **H 180** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. **Senator Jordan** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Jordan** stated that the program will help make our neighborhoods safer for children.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Senator Martin
Chair

Margaret Major
Secretary