

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 03, 2020

**TIME:** 3:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW54

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

**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 Martin** called to order the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) at 3:32 p.m.

**H 317** **Reconsideration of Bill. Chairman Martin** described the process of reconsidering a bill. He announced that there would be no public testimony because there had been one previously.

**DISCUSSION:** **Vice Chair Souza** expressed her apprehension in reconsidering **H 317**, for the reason that it had been heard and the Committee had already decided. **Chairman Martin** stated that Senator Harris will be the presenter for the reconsideration of the amended bill.

**MOTION:** **Senator Lee** moved to reconsider **H 317**. **Senator Bayer** seconded the motion.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Vice Chair Souza** moved that **H 317** be held in Committee. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Vice Chair Souza** requested for further analysis and study by the Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE) on some medical issues of **H 317**. The study would give the Committee better recommendations that could be looked into next legislative session. **Senators Heider, Jordan** and **Nelson** spoke in accord with Vice Chair Souza, and stated that more medical science data, clinical studies, and alternative proposals are needed in order to reconsider **H 317**. **Senator Heider** rationalized his standpoint that diagnosis is more important than medical surgeries or procedures. He mentioned that public safety is his main concern.

**Senators Bayer, Lee** and **Harris** spoke in support of the reconsideration of **H 317**. **Senator Lee** emphasized that reconsidering the proposed amendments of the bill would give the Committee an opportunity to weigh in on issues that both parties have not agreed on. **Senators Bayer** and **Harris** made remarks on the proposed amendments. They have observed significant changes and some clarity on the bill.

**Senator Harris** expounded that the amendments on the bill narrow down the procedures that optometrists could perform. The proposed amendments would only authorize optometrists to strictly conduct two types of therapeutic laser procedures, and with direct supervision of an approved ophthalmologist. **Senator Bayer** commented that optometrists' minimal education on medical surgery and procedures is correlated to the current restrictions and prohibitions on what they are allowed to perform.

**ROLE CALL  
VOTE:**

**Chairman Martin** called for a role call vote on the substitute motion. **Senators Heider, Burtenshaw, Jordan, Nelson,** and **Vice Chair Souza** voted aye. **Senators Lee, Harris, Bayer,** and **Chairman Martin** voted nay. The substitute motion carried.

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APPROVAL:**

**Senator Heider** moved to approve the Minutes of February 3, 2020. **Vice Chair Souza** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

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Senator Fred S. Martin  
Chair

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Margo Miller  
Committee Secretary

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Rellie Wisdom  
Majority Staff Assistant