

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW20

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Wood (Critchfield), Vice Chairman Vander Woude, Representatives Gibbs, Blanksma, Kingsley, Christensen, Lickley, Erickson, Ferch, Mitchell, Chew, Rubel, Burns

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Vander Woude** called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Ferch** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8 and 10, 2022, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 29523:** **Rep. Scott Syme**, District 11, presented **RS 29523**. This proposed legislation stipulates a peer support person designated for first responders can't be compelled to discuss anything said to them confidentially.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Lickley** made a motion to introduce **RS 29523**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 517:** **Jeremy Chou**, representing Centurion Health, Attorney Givens Pursley, presented **H 517**. When Centurion Health took over the contract for the Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC), four existing dentists working at the facility wanted to remain in their positions. Research discovered the dentists could practice within limitations but not as employees of an IDOC healthcare vendor. This legislation allows the IDOC dentists to be employees of the state, a contractor with the state, or a subcontractor for the contractor. It ensures the Board of Dentistry (BOD) has oversight and access to documents. Answering a question, Mr. Chou said there was no opposition from the BOD and all records are kept at IDOC.

**Rep. Ferch** declared Rule 80.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gibbs** made a motion to send **H 517** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Hartgen** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 561:** **Michael McGrane**, on behalf of himself and other Idaho Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers, presented **H 561** to expand the EMSIII Fund allowable use for grants to local EMS agencies to include training. This will help the rural EMS agencies.

As an example, the grant funds cover 60% of the typical \$240k cost for an ambulance, leaving a sizeable amount for the agencies to fund through various means. Finding additional funds is a struggle for the 65% of Idaho's EMS agencies who are supported by volunteers. The use of training will improve recruiting and keeping volunteers in their communities. The bureau will still approve the grants through applications.

**Donna Bennett**, Grandview Ambulance, testified **in support** of **H 561**. Volunteer rural ambulances face additional issues with distance response challenges and time off from full-time jobs. Being able to use such funds for training would open up opportunities for continuing education units, sending volunteers to training centers, and paying instructors to come to their area.

**Debbie Carscallen**, EMS Division Chief, Moscow Volunteer Fire Department, Paramedic, testified **in support** of **H 561**. The Moscow Fire Department has two paid paramedics who are also administrators and training officers. The rest of the crew are volunteers. Although alive, volunteerism is struggling due to the financial needs of the volunteers. Use of the EMSIII grant funds for educating community members will allow them to volunteer and increase the current limited number of instructors. With other operating difficulties the agencies face, any funding help is appreciated.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Rubel** made a motion to send **H 561** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Christensen** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Rubel** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

---

Representative Vander Woude  
Chair

---

Irene Moore  
Secretary