

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 17, 2023

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman Zuiderveld, Senators Lee, Harris, Bjerke, Wintrow, and Taylor

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 VanOrden** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 pm.

RS 29999 **Relating to Daycare, Immunizations. Senator Herndon** presented **RS 29999**. He explained Idaho Code § 39-1118 contained the requirements for both immunizations and the exemptions to immunizations. In addition to this Code, **RS 29999** would require licensed day-care facilities to include this information when communicating with parents. **Senator Herndon** further explained that the language in **RS 29999** was identical to that in Idaho Code § 39-4801 regarding immunization requirements for schools.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lee** stated that if **RS 29999** was printed she would like to have a discussion regarding the differences between the schools and day-care facilities.

Senator Taylor asked what was the proposed legislation he attempted to fix. **Senator Herndon** explained that **RS 29999** had been requested by parents in his district who wanted more information regarding immunization requirements.

MOTION: **Senator Berjke** moved to send **RS 29999** to print. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion to send **RS 29999** to print passed by **voice vote**.

GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Jess Byrne as Director of Environmental Quality (DEQ).** **Chairman Van Orden** invited Mr. Byrne to share his background and experience. **Mr. Byrne** stated that he was originally appointed as Director of the DEQ by Governor Little in 2020. Prior to that he was deputy director of the DEQ for 8 years after he obtained a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health and a Masters in Public Administration from Boise State University. As Director of the DEQ, he sought to strike a balance between economic development and environmental protection. He also recognized the responsibility of the DEQ was to minimize the burden that regulatory requirements might place on Idaho's citizens and businesses.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lee** asked Mr. Byrne to discuss some of the challenges the department would be facing in the coming years. **Mr. Byrne** responded that population growth with increased pressures on limited resources would be a challenge. He noted that historically Idaho had focused on the larger environmental issues, but as Idaho grew, the DEQ would need to focus on smaller issues that were more difficult to solve.

Senator Harris asked Mr. Byrne to discuss the governor's initiative relating to distribution of funds under the American Rescue Plan. **Mr. Byrne** explained that Idaho had allocated the funding in the following manner:

- \$300 million toward drinking water and wastewater facility upgrades,
- \$70 million toward other Clean Water Act projects,
- \$20 million for nutrient reduction projects around Lake Coeur d'Alene,
- \$15 million toward solid waste projects,
- several million toward the cleanup of Triumph mine,
- and several million toward contaminated sites cleanup.

The department had already distributed part of the funds and there are many ongoing projects.

Chairman VanOrden stated that the committee would vote on Mr. Byrne's Gubernatorial Reappointment the following day.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Michelle Tierney
Secretary

Meg Lawless
Assisting Secretary