

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 02, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Blanksma, Kingsley, Mitchell, Dixon(24), Gallagher, Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Chew, Rubel, Roberts

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of 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. Roberts** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2023, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30158: **Rep. Jacyn Gallagher**, District 9, presented **RS 30158**, to retain access to vitamins and supplements.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to introduce **RS 30158**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 29912C1: **Rep. Dori Healey**, District 15, presented **RS 29912C1**. This proposed legislation removes the sunset date set when the Maternity Mortality Review Committee was established in 2019. The removal is necessary because the importance of this committee has been substantiated and it needs to be continued.

MOTION: **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to introduce **RS 29912C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30212: **Rep. Dori Healey**, District 15, presented **RS 30212**, proposed legislation for the Conrad J-1 Visa Waiver which removes cumbersome restrictions to allow more physicians to participate in the program. Answering a question, she explained the provider time frame reduction does not impact the application process.

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon (24)** made a motion to introduce **RS 30212**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30213: **Rep. Dori Healey**, District 15, presented **RS 30213**. The Rural Nurse Loan Repayment Program addresses the in-demand critical access hospital need for nurses by offering to pay their student loans. The participants would have to stay at the institution for four years in order to have their loans repaid.

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon (24)** made a motion to introduce **RS 30213**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 28: **Tim Frost**, Deputy Administrator, Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses, presented **H 28**. This legislation creates the Allied Health Professionals Board (AHPB) by combining the boards for physical therapy licensure, dietetic licensure, occupational therapy licensure, athletic trainers, and respiratory therapy licensure into one board to regulate each of the licensees.

This consolidation is consistent with combinations made by other boards in the past and in alignment with other states. There are no changes to their scope of practice, ability to work, or public safety. This will lower expenses through fewer board meetings and members. It will also impact future funding allocation.

MOTION:

Rep. Rubel made a motion to send **H 28** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Answering questions, **Mr. Frost** explained the physical and occupational therapist boards are independent and oversee licensure, discipline and rule making. The other three boards are under the Board of Medicine (BOM) and have no voting authority. Each listed board has a very low cash balance, which would not be enough to handle any litigation and could impact their decisions. He said the stakeholders are being contacted.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. Healey made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 28** in committee for time certain, fourteen days.

Jody Lester, Idaho Society of Respiratory Care, testified **in opposition to H 28**, stating there are no licensure or operating issues which would cause the consolidation. The new board would only have one lay person to represent the public. The BOM has been responsive to their recommendations.

Megan Doyle, Idaho Occupational Therapist Association, testified **in opposition to H 28**. She shared concern regarding future therapists deciding to go other states because of the combined board.

Jessica Kerns, Idaho Athletic Trainers Association, testified **in opposition to H 28**. She shared concerns regarding the lack of transparency and contact during the creation of this legislation. The unique relationship they have with the supervising physician is reflected in their current board. There would only be one board member who would have any understanding regarding their profession.

Tim Olson, Pinnacle Business Group, representing Dietitians, testified **in opposition to H 28**. He voiced confusion regarding the cost effectiveness when the existing board is limited to one meeting a year and the new board would have multiple meetings.

Jonathan Gardunia, President, American Physical Therapy Association, testified **in opposition to H 28**, stating an independent board better regulates, enforces, and protects the public through peer and public members.

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. Wheeler made an amended substitute motion to **HOLD H 28** in committee.

In closing remarks **Mr. Frost** emphasized there are no statutory authority changes. The AHPB allows all of the participants to have a vote, which is not experienced by the BOM participants. This is a fiscally responsible step to continue to protect the public.

VOTE ON AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Chairman Vander Woude stated he was in doubt regarding the voice vote and requested a roll call vote. **Amended substitute motion failed by a vote of 6 AYE and 7 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Mitchell, Dixon (24), Healey, Wheeler, Chew, Rubel. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Erickson, Blanksma, Kingsley, Gallagher, Redman, Roberts, Chairman Vander Woude.**

**VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

A roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 9 AYE and 4 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Blanksma, Mitchell, Dixon (24), Gallagher, Healey, Wheeler, Chew, Rubel, Roberts. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Erickson, Kingsley, Redman, Chairman Vander Woude.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary