

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 13, 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 Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:07 p.m. She announced the Committee Agenda was reordered to make **Docket 16-0201-2201** the final item for consideration.

RS 29950C1 **Relating to Public Assistance. Lori Stiles**, Program Manager, Department of Health and Welfare, explained this proposal sought to clarify the application of penalties to civil, criminal history, and background check rule violations, as those penalties were already codified.

Ms. Stiles said it was not clear in Idaho Code §56-209(h)(8) that the Department had the authority to assess civil monetary penalties against providers who had staff working with Medicaid participants before required training was completed and/or required certification were obtained due to the potential risk of failure to satisfy training requirements by providers.

MOTION: **Senator Lee** moved to send **RS 29950C1** to print. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 30253 **Relating to Food. Senator Nichols** said **RS 30253** was drafted to incorporate suggested changes to SB 1018 with the addition of new language to Idaho Code §37-115 that would restrict the manufacture, holding, delivery, or sale of any food products that contained a vaccine or vaccine material intended for human consumption unless proper labeling was included.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Harris** asked for an example of the addition of vaccines and vaccine materials to food products. **Senator Nichols** said she had prepared a full hearing that she planned to share at that time. **Senator Harris** asked for an example from her packet. **Senator Nichols** said the packet included an article about how to create your own vaccines.

Senator Lee asked if there were specific instances where vaccines or vaccine materials were added to food products in Idaho or other states. **Senator Nichols** said there were examples in other states. **Senator Lee** asked if this bill would also require similar labeling of food products that contained genetically-modified organisms (GMO's). **Senator Nichols** said that was not the case.

Senator Taylor asked if the intent of the bill was to target mRNA, as it was a vehicle for the movement of vaccines through the body. **Senator Nichols** said that was not the case.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Zuiderveld** moved to send **RS 30253** to print. **Senator Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

- RS 30284** **Physician Residency Pathways.** **Senator Wintrow** explained **RS 30284** created a pathway to residency for individuals who were practicing physicians in another country that were forcibly removed.
- MOTION:** **Senator Lee** moved to send **RS 30284** to print. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 30311** **Child Protection, Notification.** **Senator Harris** informed the Committee the language in **RS 30311** created a requirement that the Department of Health and Welfare (Department) notify law enforcement of any cases of reported child abuse.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Bjerke** asked if the Department was required to make contact with law enforcement when such matters were reported. **Senator Harris** said there were no requirement for the Department to report to law enforcement.
- MOTION:** **Senator Lee** moved to send **RS 30311** to print. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 30247** **Relating to Alzheimer's.** **Senator Harris** said **RS 30247** directed the Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Public Health to convene the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) Alliance every five years to update its Strategic Plan and present findings to the Legislature and Governor.
- MOTION:** **Senator Wintrow** moved to send **RS 30247** to print. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 29915C1** **Relating to Medicaid.** **Juliet Charron**, Administrator, Department of Health and Welfare, explained the proposed Legislation sought to establish a dedicated fund that supported the repurchase and installation of new Medicaid Management Information Systems contracts. This effort began in State Fiscal Year 2023 and would continue through calendar year 2031. **Ms. Charron** said the Medicaid Management Information System was the operating system for the entire Medicaid program.
- MOTION:** **Senator Taylor** moved to send **RS 29915C1** to print. **Senator Bjerke** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- DOCKET NO. 16-0201-2201** **Idaho Time-Sensitive Emergency System Council (ZBR Chapter Rewrite, Fee Rule) - Proposed Rule.** **Chris Way**, Director, Idaho Time Sensitive Emergency Council, said this chapter of rules underwent a comprehensive review and was rewritten in accordance with the Governor's Zero-Based Regulation initiative under Executive Order 2020-01. He said the proposed changes:
- aligned current criteria to meet new and updated national standards
 - removed redundant and potentially confusing criteria
 - removed pediatric trauma standards as they were now be surveyed by a national organization
 - removed an out-of-state surveyor requirement
 - added a new section about STEMI, or level-one heart attack
 - updated educational requirements and performance improvements in all sections
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Bjerke** asked Mr. Way why they wanted to classify EMS as an essential service. **Mr. Way** informed the Committee that the idea was a result of the 40 percent increase in EMS calls made in the State during the pandemic.
- MOTION:** **Senator Bjerke** moved to approve **Docket 16-0201-2201**. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time. **Chairman VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Michelle Tierney
Secretary

Kieran Sprague
Assistant Secretary