

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 16, 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. Dixon (24)** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6 and 14, 2023, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 28: **Rep. Erickson** made a motion to **HOLD H 28** in committee.

Tim Frost, Deputy Administrator, Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses, gave an update on the progress of **H 28**, which was held for time certain, 14 days, on February 2, 2023. Stakeholder discussions, which will continue, have highlighted adjustments to the board's composition.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 81: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to **HOLD H 81** in committee. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Rubel and Chew** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**.

H 83: **Rep. Dori Healey**, District 15, presented **H 83** for the Conrad J-1 Visa Waiver. This legislation amends the application process by expanding the submissions cap to five per facility. It also decreases the amount of time a facility must attempt to fill a vacancy with a U.S. citizen. The sliding fee scale is removed and a new requirement for a letter of recommendation is added.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 83** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Healey** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 84: **Rep. Dori Healey**, District 15, presented **H 84** to establish the rural nursing loan repayment program and fund. The loan payments are graduated over three years for a maximum of \$25k, not to exceed the verified nursing educational debt. Eligibility for the nurses and sites are specified. A 2029 sunset date is stipulated.

Answering questions **Rep. Healey** said the sunset date eliminates any funding requests when the educational allocated funds end. Setting a minimum of twenty hours per week acknowledges the age of the nurses who are just out of school. The nurses are not required to work at the facility beyond the three years of the program.

Brian Whitlock, President, Idaho Hospital Association, testified **in support of H 84**. An existing Department of Health and Welfare physician advisory board is structured to receive specific medical student fees. To include this fund, with receipts from private and corporate entities, would be an issue.

MOTION: Rep. Rubel made a motion to send **H 84** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Rep. Gallagher requested a roll call vote. **Motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE and 5 NAY. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Erickson, Dixon (24), Healey, Wheeler, Chew, Rubel, Roberts, Vander Woude. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Blanksma, Kingsley, Mitchell, Gallagher, Redman. Rep. Healey will sponsor the bill on the floor.**

Chairman Vander Woude and the committee thanked **Ashton Erickson** for his work as the committee's page during the first half of the session.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary