

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 16, 2023

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Chairman VanOrden

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: **Vice Chairman Zuiderveld** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION: Honoring of Page Brooklyn Mann. **Vice Chairman Zuiderveld** thanked Ms. Mann for all her hard work, and asked about her future plans. **Ms. Mann** stated she had a wonderful time while serving at the Senate and gained much experience. She planned to attend college for a Certified Public Accounting (CPA), as they offered a 5 year program so she could graduate with her masters degree.

Senator Lee stated she was very proud of Brooklyn, as she was from her district, and felt she represented the best and the brightest. The Committee enjoyed their time with her, and all wished her the best.

SCR 101 **Health - States findings of the Legislature and request that the Department of Health and Welfare develop draft legislation, establishing a statewide planning, coordination, and funding system for emergency medical services (EMS).** **Senator Harris** explained the Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE) completed a study of EMS in Idaho, and found the EMS across the state were severely understaffed and underfunded (<https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/OPE/Reports/r1004.pdf>).

DISCUSSION: **Senator Bjerke** asked if creating the essential service element was the beginning of moving toward a connection between those who wanted independence and those who felt there should be greater control from a larger entity. **Senator Harris** replied it was part of the challenge, as the Bureau of EMS set the licensing guidelines, however their authority was limited.

TESTIMONY: **Fred Birnbaum**, Idaho Freedom Foundation testified in opposition of **SCR 101**. He explained the opposition was not to the bill itself, but that it would be placed within the Department of Health and Welfare. He stated it was a 5 billion dollar agency that should not be asked to execute further agencies.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lee** asked if he had a suggestion of an agency that would be a better fit for execution. **Mr. Birnbaum** replied he would be willing to do some research and get back with her.

TESTIMONY: **Mark Babson** testified in support of **SCR 101**.

Shawn Rayne, Chief of Ada County Paramedics, testified in support of **SCR 101**. He stated had been involved with the work of the task force since it started last summer. The issues EMS was facing are at their worst, as they cannot get any applicants to support the population growth.

Wesley Anderson , Acute Rescue and Transport, testified in support of **SCR 101**. He stated the lack of volunteers was an issue not only seen in Idaho, but across the nation. Volunteers were no longer sustainable, and over 70 percent of Idaho was volunteer.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lee** asked what barriers the Committee should be aware of as they moved forward. **Mr. Anderson** replied the 2010 OPE report almost mirrored the 2022 report, in that the issues identified 12 years ago are the exact same issues seen today. He further stated that private EMS were not supported by the General Fund, as the only way to collect on services rendered was to bill the insurance companies, which was only a 45 percent collection rate.

TESTIMONY: **Sasha O'Connell**, Bureau of Office of Performance Evaluations (Bureau), was in support of **SCR 101**. She explained that there was a lack of data at the local level about staffing needs. The Bureau aimed to work with the task force when hiring consultants to figure out what the need was at each agency level.

MOTION: **Senator Lee** moved to send **SCR 101** to the floor with a do pass recommendation. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion passed with a **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 16-0319-2201 **Certified Family Homes (ZBR Chapter Rewrite, Fee Rules) - Proposed Rule.** **Steve Millward**, Division of Licensing and Certification (Division), explained a certified family home consisted of an adult care provider certified by the Division, to serve up to four vulnerable adults living in the provider's personal primary residence and integrated into the provider's household. Nearly 74 percent of Idaho residents received services in certified family homes were related to their care provider and likely spent their lives in that home prior to certification. Idaho was one of the few states in the country to offer such a program.

TESTIMONY: **Francoise Cleveland**, AARP Idaho, registered in support of **Docket No. 16-0319-2201**.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lee** asked if there was due process for the Division to require a background check at any time. **Mr. Millward** explained there were times when the Division learned of possible legal issues that occurred with the care provider before the required five year check. In those instances, the care provider needed to go renew their clearance before that five year benchmark.

Senator Lee asked what the estimate was for the additional costs to the certified family homes in new inspection requirements to plumbing and heating every 12 months. **Mr. Millward** explained there was no requirement for inspection on a yearly basis. It only regarded the initial certification.

MOTION: **Senator Lee** moved to accept **Docket No. 16-0319-2201**. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 16-0208-2201 **Vital Statistics Rules - Temporary and Proposed Rule.** **James Aydelotte**, Bureau Chief, Division of Public Health, explained the proposed changes to the rules brought them into alignment with legislation that was passed during the 2022 session. S 1268 established a no fee identification card would be issued by the Idaho Department of Transportation for individuals who experienced homelessness, as this was a barrier to both job and housing attainment. Under that bill, the Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics would issue a birth certificate at no charge to those individuals, and S 1320 allowed an adult adoptee open access to their birth records.

TESTIMONY: **Francoise Cleveland**, AARP Idaho, registered in support of **Docket No. 16-0208-2201**.

MOTION: **Senator Wintrow** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0208-2201**. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.
16-0219-2201**

Idaho Food Code (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Proposed Rule. Jarryd Samples, Food Program Manager, Division of Public Health stated deviations were made from the FDA Food Code that were specific to Idaho. The term 'non-critical item' was changed to a 'core item'. The term 'potentially critical item' was changed to a 'priority foundation item', and the term 'critical item' had changed to a 'priority item'. These terms denote the severity of the violation. Wording was changed from requiring the regulatory authority to inspect the food establishment from once every year to once every 12 months.

MOTION: **Senator Taylor** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0219-2201**. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Michelle Tierney
Secretary