

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 22, 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 February 17, 2023, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Vander Woude** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Erickson**.

**RS 30372:** **Rep. John Vander Woude**, District 22, presented **RS 30372** to direct any changes in public assistance program eligibility requirements be done in statute.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 30372**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Vice Chairman Erickson** turned the gavel over to **Chairman Vander Woude**.

**RS 30397:** **Rep. Julianne Young**, District 30, presented **RS 30397** to clarify the essential caregiver statute by providing for multiple essential caregivers and including in-person visitation. It also allows caregiver designations by persons with legal authority.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 30397**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 161:** **Rep. Kevin Andrus**, District 35, presented **H 161**. There are 26k able-bodied Idaho adults receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Of those, 15k have no dependents. This legislation requires SNAP participants to be working, volunteering, in training, or in school.

**Mr. Scott Centurino**, Senior Fellow, Foundation for Government Accountability, Visiting Fellow, Opportunity Solutions Project, provided national context for **H 161**. This legislation is designed to create a true statewide requirement for SNAP enrolled able-bodied adults who can and should be working.

Under federal law there are two SNAP work requirements, able-bodied adults, under fifty years of age, without dependents (ABAWD) and general work requirements.

For the ABAWD geographic waivers, legislative approval will now be required. The current federal no-good-cause exemption for up to 12% of the ABAWD has developed a stockpile during the Public Health Emergency. Considering it would allow over ten months of exemptions, stipulation is made for the stockpile's non use.

The general work requirement for specific SNAP able-bodied adults is thirty hours a week or participation in an employment training program. Since training programs are federally mandated, **H 161** codifies the current practice.

**Kristin Matthews**, Bureau Chief, Self-reliance Programs, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), was invited to answer committee questions. She said the requirement for legislative approval could result in the loss of federal funding and the suspension of the plan when changes occur outside of the legislature's session. There is no geographic waiver currently in effect. Participants are screened for SNAP benefits upon application and at six-month intervals. Referrals are made to the contracted training program provider. Participants who do not comply are sanctioned for up to six months.

In closing, **Rep. Andrus** stated the DHW has a lot of latitude to exempt enrollees based on unforeseen situations. This legislation helps individuals to get on their feet and working.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **H 161** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Roberts, Rubel, and Chew** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Andrus** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 153:** **Rep. Josh Wheeler**, District 35, presented **H 153** directing the Idaho Board of Medicine (BOM) to create a one-year bridge license for medical students who have not matched with a residency program. These graduates have completed steps one and two of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). The BOM can charge up to \$300 to cover any administrative burden. Answering a question, he said this does not apply to individuals who have been unmatched with a residency program beyond one year.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Dixon (24)** made a motion to send **H 153** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wheeler** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

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Representative Vander Woude  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary