

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 01, 2023

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman VanOrden, Senators Lee, Harris, Bjerke, Wintrow, and Taylor

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Zuiderveld

**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 Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:14 p.m.

**S 1096** **ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED DEMENTIAS - Adds to existing law to provide legislative intent and to direct the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to convene the Alzheimer's disease and related dementias alliance and to annually provide a certain report.** **Lisa Anderson**, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Association of Greater Idaho, explained the bill directs the Department of Health and Welfare (Department), Division of Public Health, and the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Program (ADR), to convene every five years to update the ADR's Strategic Plan for Idaho, and report to the Legislature and the Governor on gaps, needs and progress (see Attachment 1).

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Wintrow** asked what the difference was between presenting updates of the strategic plan every 5 years or could recommendations continue to occur on an ongoing basis to the Department. **Ms. Anderson** replied they would receive an update on where the plan was in the process every year, as well as what they were looking toward for the next year. **Senator Wintrow** asked what time of the year the legislature would receive the annual update. **Ms. Anderson** replied they had a public policy group as part of that alliance, and as that possible legislation came up, they would contact legislators to see who would be interested in helping.

**Senator Wintrow** asked how progress had been made in addressing any gaps previously identified as problems. **Tiffany Rob**, Program Manager, Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Program stated they were looking at how they would educate Idahoans about choices they could make now to improve their brain health outcomes as they got older. They were finding ways to support family caregivers, and the involuntary hold issues were an entirely different segment of the population, as those with neurocognitive disabilities or decline were not considered a mental or behavioral health issue.

**Senator Wintrow** asked how those gaps in care came to the surface for legislative recommendations and support in budgetary ways. **Dave Jeppesen**, Director, Department of Health and Welfare, replied the Department would submit that legislative idea, which would turn into a draft legislation, which usually took place over the summer. If that were approved through the governor's office process, then the Department would look for a legislative sponsor in the third or fourth quarter. If that was something the Committee prioritized as Department Legislation, then the process would be followed.

**TESTIMONY:** **Francoise Cleveland**, AARP, testified in support of **S 1096**.

**MOTION:** **Senator Lee** moved to send **S 1096** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. It was seconded by **Senator Taylor**. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**S 1097** **MEDICAID - Adds to existing law to establish the Medicaid Management Information Systems (MMI) Dedicated Fund in the state treasury.** **Senator Cook** stated the cost for that entire system was \$186 million, and the State of Idaho would pay 10 percent of that. He worked with the project manager Kevin Nelson, and they looked at spreading the system out in pieces over the course of many years. The base module would be first, then followed by pharmaceutical, then the data warehouse. They would not start the next module until after the last one was installed.

**Senator Bjerke** asked if there was an alternative plan. **Senator Cook** responded there had to be milestones to keep from going overboard.

**TESTIMONY:** **Fred Birnbaum**, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified in opposition of **S 1097**. He expressed his concerns as the MMI Project was estimated at \$138 million in early 2022, then was estimated at \$175.9 million later that fall. He stated **S 1097** lacked an accountability piece.

**MOTION:** **Senator Lee** moved to send **S 1097** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **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 4:02 p.m.

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Senator VanOrden  
Chair

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Michelle Tierney  
Secretary