

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, March 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.

**S 1097:** **Sen. Kevin Cook**, District 32, presented **S 1097** to create an account and fund for the appropriations covering the Department of Health and Welfare's (DHW) Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) installation, which will cost over \$100M. He explained what data the system will contain, the reason for its high cost, federal implementation requirements, cost differences in other states, inability to purchase an established system, purchase of trimmed modules, and designated milestones.

A requirement is made for annual reporting to JFAC and reviews of any missed milestones. The account funds cannot be spent until the milestones are completed and accepted. He emphasized this legislation creates the account and is not the funding mechanism.

Answering questions, **Sen. Cook** explained if this legislation does not pass there would be no place to hold the funds, making them null and void. An expected trailer bill will place the funds into the account. The existing system's data will be migrated to the new warehouse.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Erickson** made a motion to send **S 1097** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Fred Birnbaum**, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified in **opposition** to **S 1097**. The funding of this new system has increased considerably from last year. There is no project manager listed for project accountability.

**Sen. Cook**, in response, said the project manager, **Kevin Nelson**, is not listed on this legislation. Project accountability is a part of the completion of milestones. He reminded the committee this legislation only creates an account to harbor appropriated funds for this eight-year project. The trailer legislation includes specifics regarding the funding and milestones.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1097** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Gallagher, Mitchell, Redman, and Kingsley** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Raybould** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1096:** **Sen. Mark Harris**, District 35, presented **S 1096** to direct the DHW Public Health Division to convene the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Alliance (ADRDA) to report to the Governor. Updating the state plan will assure continuing improvement of Idaho's Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) awareness.

**Lisa Anderson**, Public Policy Director, Alzheimer's Association of Greater Idaho, further presented **S 1096**. More than 20k Idahoans are now living with ADRD. This number is expected to increase by 22% over the next few years. Nearly one quarter of ADRD hospitalizations are preventable. Ninety-five percent of persons living with ADRD have at least one additional chronic condition. These individuals and their caregivers face emotional, physical, and financial difficulties.

Interventions and strong public health responses can mitigate ADRD for a better quality of life and reduced associated costs. She shared the impact of the Office of Performance Evaluation report recommendations and the development of the ADRD steering committee, which put together the alliance. The ADRDA has developed the Idaho 2023-2027 ADRD Strategic Plan for a system of collaboration and cooperation between families, government, and organizations.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **S 1096** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wheeler** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1094:** **Rep. Lance Clow**, District 25, presented **S 1094** regarding international medical graduates with a legal refugee status who are unable to practice in the U.S. This legislation provides a three-year temporary license pilot program to allow them to participate in a residency program. It requires successful passing of qualifying tests and three years of service in an underserved community.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Erickson** made a motion to send **S 1094** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Scott Smith**, Global Talent, further presented **S 1094**. This grant-funded pilot program adds one residency slot and does not take away from any non-refugee candidates. It applies to individuals who have completed their training and three years of practice in their home country. Answering a question, **Mr. Smith** said the individuals must pass all three boards and do a full residency for permanent licensure.

**VOTE ON MOTION:** **Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1094** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Clow** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST:** Due to time constraints, **Chairman Vander Woude** made a unanimous consent request to **HOLD RS 30638** until Friday, March 17, 2023. There being no objection, the request was granted.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

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Representative Vander Woude  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary