

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 08, 2024

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair VanOrden, Senators Lee, Bjerke, Zuiderveld, Wintrow, and Taylor

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Harris

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: **Chair VanOrden** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.

INTRODUCTION: **Chair VanOrden** announced students from the Idaho Science and Technology Charter School were in the audience. The students were at the Capitol participating in "We the People" mock congressional hearings.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chair VanOrden passed the gavel to Senator Lee.

RS 30937 **Relating to Adoption Facilitators.** **Senator VanOrden** stated proposed changes addressed unlicensed adoption facilitators in Idaho. The legislation provided a description of activities that were not allowed and the penalties for illegally participating in adoptions.

MOTION: **Senator Wintrow** moved to send **RS 30937** to print. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 31084 **Relating to Adoption Education.** **Senator VanOrden** explained that this legislation would put in place the opportunity for school districts to add adoption, the Safe Haven Act, and Idaho law into their family and sex education classes.

MOTION: **Senator Taylor** moved to send **RS 31084** to print. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 31267 **Relating to Adoption Allowable Expenses.** **Senator VanOrden** explained that when a birth mother had expenses to be paid she was required to get court approval for expenses over \$500. The proposed changes would raise the amount to \$2000. The funds went towards the expenses that she had incurred and were paid directly to the vendor where she had incurred those expenses.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Bjerke** inquired where the money came from. **Senator VanOrden** explained these were expenses paid by the prospective adoptive parents.

MOTION: **Senator Zuiderveld** moved to send **RS 31267** to print. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

Senator Lee moved **S 1272** up on the agenda.

S 1272

IDAHO SAFE HAVEN ACT - Adds to existing law to allow for the placement and use of newborn safety devices. **Senator VanOrden** played the Safe Haven Baby Box (box) PSA video. She presented an article of a news story covered by Alabama TV station WAFF and a second article from Twin Falls, Idaho TV station KMVT covering the same story. A Safe Haven Baby Box had been installed in a Madison, Alabama fire station and the box was utilized 12 days later. **Senator VanOrden** stated the bill would allow entities in Idaho to be able to install a box in their facility. **Hailey Dahle**, Grove Creek Medical Center had gone to the local city council and were able to get an ordinance passed so a box could be legally installed. This legislation allowed a box statewide.

Ms. Dahle discussed issues found in the hospital delivery and saw many people with issues. They starting researching solutions and decided on safe haven baby box. It was not only a box, but also an outreach. She spoke to the hospital board and city council about the Safe Haven Law and many did not know what the law was. Ms. Dally provided details about the box (Attachment 1).

In response to Committee questions, **Chair VanOrden** stated that nothing in the existing legislation had been changed, the option of a baby box was added. She stated there was a yearly fee paid and Safe Haven was the regulatory body.

Ms. Dahle added that the boxes were not required to have Food and Drug Administration approval. She relayed the installation process which started with a custom made box, followed by 7 days of testing after the install, and the staff was trained on the correct procedures to utilize the box. She stated that there was no documentation about the baby or its family.

TESTIMONY:

The following testified in support of **S 1272**: **David Ripley**, Idaho Chooses Life; **Grace Howat**, Idaho Family Policy Center; **Christian Welp**, Roman Catholic Dioceses of Boise; and **Ben Brown**, Treasure Valley Teens for Life.

MOTION:

Senator Wintrow moved to send **S 1272** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

RS 30949

Relating to Medicaid - Legislative Review Panel. **Senator Lee** stated that **RS 30949** was being moved to the next agenda at the call of the chair.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary