

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Chair 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: **Senator Lee** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:10 p.m.

H 436 **OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES - Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to provide for the creation of the Idaho Allied Health Professionals Board and to remove references to various health boards that are to be consolidated under the Idaho Allied Health Professionals Board.** **Nicki Chopski**, Bureau Chief, Health Professions, Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL) presented **H 436** which created the Idaho Allied Health Advisory Board, under the Idaho Board of Medicine, by combining the Dietetic Licensure Board, the Board of Athletic Trainers, the Naturopathic Medical Board, and the Respiratory Therapy Licensure Board into a single board. The bill combined four boards into a seven-member board with representation of one dietician, one athletic trainer, one licensed naturopathic doctor, one respiratory therapist, one polysomnographer, one licensed physician, and one public member. The composition of members on the board included one member for each license type with an equal vote value. The Idaho Allied Health Advisory Board would serve as an advisory board to the Idaho Board of Medicine as did the previous four separate boards.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** asked if all Idaho Allied Health Professional Board members were in agreement to these changes. **Ms. Chopski** responded that all board members were in agreement.

MOTION: **Senator Zuiderveld** moved to send **H 436** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 437 **MIDWIFERY - Amends and adds to existing law to provide for midwifery licensure under the board of nursing.** **Nicki Chopski** presented **H 437** which combined the Board of Midwifery and the Board of Nursing within the Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses. It transferred the powers and duties of the Board of Midwifery to the Board of Nursing. The bill changed the composition of the Board of Nursing into a twelve-member board with representation of five registered nurses, two licensed practical nurses, two advanced practice nurses, two licensed certified midwives, and one public member. It also set forth a quorum to be a majority of the board members. The bill did not change any statutory authority related to educational requirements, licensing, scope of practice, discipline, or supervision.

DISCUSSION: **Ms. Chopski** explained that **H 437** sought to consolidate the Board of Midwifery under the Board of Nursing. **Senator Wintrow** asked if the section on immunity from vicarious liability was a new section or a substantive change. **Ms. Chopski** clarified that the section had always been there, and this was not a change. **Senator Lee** asked about the financial situation of the Boards. **Ms. Chopski** clarified that the Midwifery Board remained in the red with progress toward working its way out of debt. The Nursing Board had strong finances and combining the boards should balance out.

TESTIMONY: **Liza Rawlins** and **Katharine Rawlins** testified in favor of **H 437**.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **H 437** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Senator Lee** adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary