

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, January 20, 2025

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairman Bjerke, Senators Harris, Zuiderveld, Lenney, Shippy, Blaylock, Keyser, and Wintrow

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: **Vice Chair Bjerke** called the meeting of the Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Lance Boylan, of Kellogg, ID to the Board of Environmental Quality** term commencing December 1, 2024 and expiring July 1, 2028. **Mr. Boylan** described his fourteen years of experience as an environmental engineer focusing on water and waste management. His most recent project involved land reclamation in Yukon, Canada and he had served in management since 2022.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Shippy** petitioned Mr. Boylan's opinion on the biggest threat facing Idaho and how he would prioritize agriculture. **Mr. Boylan** noted the growing population created unique water and waste management challenges and agriculturally he would prioritize phosphate and discharge operations. **Senator Wintrow** asked what skills made Mr. Boylan a good board member and how he planned to balance competing water interests. **Mr. Boylan's** discussed how his time negotiating between the First Nations, local government, and businesses in Yukon taught him to balance interests through listening to understand. **Senator Zuiderveld** asked about first action items if Mr. Boylan were appointed. **Mr. Boylan** articulated aligning Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulations with statute, along with increasing permit transparency.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Dennis Leikam of Idaho Falls, ID to the Board of Environmental Quality**, term commencing December 1, 2024 and expiring July 1, 2028. **Mr. Leikam** held a Masters Degree in Geology and throughout his time working in the West had never experienced transparency like Idaho's. **Mr. Leikam** highly respected DEQ's climate of collaboration and desired to perpetuate that legacy during his tenure on the board.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Shippy** inquired as to Mr. Leikam's opinion on the biggest threat facing Idaho and how he would prioritize agriculture. **Mr. Leikam** concurred with Mr. Boylan on the challenge of an expanding population and proposed reusing water before recycling. To prioritize agriculture, **Mr. Leikam** suggested examining water availability and connecting local farmers with educational organizations. **Senator Wintrow** asked about leadership qualities. **Mr. Leikam** mentioned his robust business experience granted him a unique vantage point to oversee DEQ. **Senator Zuiderveld** asked about Mr. Leikam's first action items if he was appointed. **Mr. Leikam** wanted to apply creative solutions to maximize both environmental protection and flexibility in business operations.

RS 31799C1 **Relating to Newborn Testing.** **Senator Blaylock** described this legislation transferred authority to regulate newborn testing from the Department of Health and Welfare (Department) to the Legislature.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved that **RS 31799C1** be sent to print. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 31828C1 **Relating to Hospital Licensing.** **Senator Blaylock** furthered that her legislation reduced unnecessary burdens on hospitals and providers to support Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). She remarked that removing current state level requirement would lessen operational strain on hospitals and providers. The legislation adjusted terminology and was supported by the Department.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved that **RS 31828C1** be sent to print. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at that time, **Vice Chair Bjerke** adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Rebecca Kozlowski
Secretary

Senator Bjerke
Vice Chair