

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, January 23, 2025

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

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman VanOrden, Vice Chairman Bjerke, Senators Harris, Shippy, Blaylock, Keyser, and Wintrow

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Lenney and 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:** **Chair VanOrden** convened the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) at 3:00 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve the minutes of January 14, 2025 and January 15, 2025. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION:** **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Drinking Water.** **Tyler Fortunati** Drinking Water Bureau Chief, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) outlined updates to the drinking water rules presented on January 22, and held at the call of the chair (Attachment 1). He discussed Idaho's status on the testing and regulating of PFAS, harmful man-made chemicals found in the soil, air, and water. Last year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a max level of six PFAS chemical parts per trillion. Mandatory water source monitoring would begin by April 2027 with all water sources to be in compliance with EPA standards by April 2029.

**DISCUSSION** **Senator Wintrow** asked about the treatment process for soil and water sources containing PFAS. **Mr. Fortunati** said he would need to speak with waste management to address the cost of treating soil. For water treatment, municipalities had four options: engage with DEQ and consultants, install treatment facilities, abandon the contaminated sources and develop new ones, or interconnect with other water systems. **Senator Wintrow** inquired about the possibility for rural Idaho to interconnect with other water systems, and how to notify the public if monitors detected PFAS. **Mr. Fortunati** stated that though rural water systems could not interconnect with other systems, they could still treat the sources. DEQ had communication templates and materials and reporting would become mandatory in 2029.

**PASS THE GAVEL:** Chair VanOrden passed the gavel to Vice Chair Bjerke.

**DOCKET NO. 24-0301-2401** **Rules of the State Board of Chiropractic Physicians (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule.** **John Price**, Bureau Chief, Occupational Licenses stated that the proposed rule updated continuing education requirements, modified the scope of practice for chiropractic assistants, and removed duplicative regulations regarding prescription drugs and compounding to align with Idaho state law. **Mr. Price** continued that the rule made additional clarifications regarding research advertisements and the handling of sexual misconduct violations within the chiropractic profession.

**MOTION:** **Chair VanOrden** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-0301-2401**. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

- DOCKET NO. 24-0901-2401** **Rules of the Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule.** **Cesley Metcalfe**, Program Manager, Board Service outlined that this rule removed details about examination content and locations and clarified that the course of study must be approved by the Board. The rule reduced continuing education hours and eliminated overly burdensome prerequisite for administrators. Additionally, **Ms. Metcalfe** explained the rule revised language to streamline trainee application requirements, qualifications, and licensing procedures, and removed outdated or unnecessary rules like the temporary permit fee.
- MOTION:** **Senator Blaylock** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-0901-2401**. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- DOCKET NO. 24-1901-2401** **Rules of the Board of Examiners of Residential Care Facility Administrators (ZBR Chapter Rewrite, Fee Rule) - Pending Rule.** **Ms. Metcalfe** explained the rule reworded qualifications for an administrator license and added a new licensure pathway for those with Health Services Executive Credentials. The rule simplified continuing education requirements to align with biennial renewals and eliminated the jurisprudence exam to be in accordance with state law. Additionally, the rule increased some fees to match Idaho code and removed a rule regarding civil fines due to lack of statutory authority.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Blaylock** asked for an overview of the required course and examination and to clarify whether residential care administrators were required to be licenses. **Ms. Metcalfe** had never taken the course, but assured it was not an extensive time burden. The Division was not required to license residential care administrators.
- MOTION:** **Senator Keyser** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-1901-2401**. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- DOCKET NO. 24-2401-2401** **Rules of the Genetic Counselors Licensing Board (Board) (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule.** **Ms. Metcalfe** stated this rule was heard and held by the House Health and Welfare Committee that morning. She continued that it removed the requirement of information on non-felony crimes and gave the Board permission to consider accepting other licensing exams. **Ms. Metcalfe** continued that the rule also eliminated certain fees, inactive status rules, and redundant continuing education requirements, aligning with existing certification requirements for licensure.
- MOTION:** **Senator Shippy** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-2401-2401** with the exception of Section 002: incorporation by reference of "National Society of Genetic Counselors Code of Ethics" Section II, Number 3. **Senator Harris** asked Senator Shippy to explain the motion. **Senator Shippy** relayed Section II, Number 3. did not convey respect for client's autonomy. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- DOCKET NO. 24-2601-2501** **Rules of the Idaho Board of Midwifery - Adoption of Temporary Rule.** **Katie Stuart**, Bureau Chief, Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (Division), introduced that this rule accorded with 2024 Senate Bill 1442 and demonstrated Division cognizance of cash balances. The rule reduced fees on average by 90%, by consolidating the Board of Midwifery with the Board of Nursing.
- MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-2601-2501**. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- DOCKET NO. 24-3101-2501** **Rules of the Idaho State Board of Dentistry - Adoption of Temporary Rule.** **Ms. Stuart** stated in accordance with Senate Bill 1442, this rule created "not more than" language to allow the Idaho Board of Dentistry the flexibility to lower fees in the future. The rule updated the fee chart on page 27 and decreased fees by 25%.

**MOTION:** **Senator Shippy** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-3101-2501**. **Senator Blaylock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 24-3401-2501** **Rules of the Idaho Board of Nursing - Adoption of Temporary Rule. Ms. Stuart** stated this rule created "not more than" language to allow the Idaho Board of Nursing flexibility to lower fees. The fees decreased 20% from \$90-\$70.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-3401-2501**. **Senator Blaylock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at the time, **Vice Chair Bjerke** adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m..

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Senator VanOrden  
Chair

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Rebecca Kozlowski  
Secretary