

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 03, 2025

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

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair VanOrden, Vice Chairman Bjerke, Senators Zuiderveld, Lenney, Shippy, Blaylock, Keyser, and Wintrow

**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** convened the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Shippy** moved to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2025. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Keyser** moved to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2025. **Senator Blaylock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Senator Wintrow** moved to send the Gubernatorial Reappointment of **Allan Schneider** to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to the Senate floor with the recommendation he be confirmed. **Senator Blaylock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Senator Blaylock** moved to send the Gubernatorial Reappointment of **Timothy Rarick** to the State Board of Health and Welfare to the Senate floor with the recommendation he be confirmed. The motion failed due to **lack of a second**.

**GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Mark Watkins of Rexburg, ID, to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired** (Commission), term commencing July 1, 2023 and expiring July 1, 2026. **Mr. Watkins** introduced himself as a music professor who had served on the Commission for three years. He appreciated the programing and community building which were resources he could not access as a child with a visual impairment.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Wintrow** invited Mr. Watkins to share his qualifications and reason for serving on the Commission. **Mr. Watkins** explained that after becoming completely blind, he attended a 12-week rehabilitation where he gained skills to maintain his full-time faculty position. After completing the course, he was invited to serve on the Commission. **Mr Watkins** contributed his personal experiences with blindness as well as knowledge from previous committee work to assist the visually impaired throughout Idaho.

**Vice Chair Bjerke** asked which specific programs Mr. Watkins found most helpful. **Mr. Watkins** stated as a child he was bused to a separate school that lacked adequate braille or mobility training. **Mr. Watkins** was grateful for programs that helped children access care while still receiving quality education.

**Chair VanOrden** expressed her admiration for Mr. Watkins' accomplishments and thanked him for meeting with the Committee.

- RS 32137**      **Relating to Family Law License Suspensions.** **Senator Shippy** discussed this legislation added § 7-1406A to Chapter 14, Title 7 of Idaho Code. It outlined good cause determinates to suspend a motor vehicle or occupational license. This increased legislative oversight of the Department of Health and Welfare (Department).
- DISCUSSION:**      **Senator Wintrow** asked if the Committee had already reviewed these rules. **Senator Shippy** affirmed the rules were previously reviewed with the exception of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program which allowed good cause exception for those not paying child support. **Senator Shippy** stated he would discuss TANF in detail during the bill hearing.
- MOTION:**      **Senator Zuiderveld** moved to send **RS 32137** to print. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- RS 32014**      **Relating to the Department of Health and Welfare.** **Senator Lenney** introduced this legislation amended § 56-1002 of Idaho Code to establish provisions regarding Department Bureau Chiefs. **Senator Lenney** noted that Bureau Chiefs did not receive a gubernatorial appointment, and this legislation increased legislative oversight of the position.
- MOTION:**      **Senator Keyser** moved to send **RS 32014** to print. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- ADJOURNED:**      There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

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Senator VanOrden  
Chair

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Rebecca Kozlowski  
Secretary