

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 03, 2025

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

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

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

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

S 1120 **CRISIS RESPONSE FOR PERSONS WITH A NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDER - Amends existing law to revise provisions regarding placing certain persons in protective custody without a hearing.** **Senator Wintrow** explained this bill built on legislation from 2024 to create a crisis hold for individuals with neurocognitive disorders posing a danger to themselves or others. She shared the experience of a homeless shelter director who was forced to call the police when an individual with Huntington's disease began throwing hot coffee. Police were reticent to intervene because the individual had a neurocognitive disorder. **Senator Wintrow** stated that the proposed modification changed the language from "likely to injure" to "imminent danger" to address liability concerns from law enforcement agencies.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Zuiderveld** asked for an explanation of when "persons liberty poses imminent danger." **Senator Wintrow** iterated the example from the homeless shelter. She continued that this language made law enforcement more comfortable with apprehending individuals unwilling to either enter an ambulance or follow the officer.

MOTION: **Senator Bjerke** moved to send **S 1120** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 28 **DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSES - Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to provide for the Idaho Board of Long-Term Care Facility Administrators.** **Senator Bjerke** stated this bill consolidates the Residential Care Administrators Act and Nursing Home Administrators Act into the Long-Term Care Administrators Act. This new act consolidated two boards to create the Idaho Board of Long-Term Care Administrators. The care industry was in support of the consolidation and the bill caused no fiscal impact.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **H 28** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Keyser** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 90 **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE - Amends existing law to require legislative action for certain changes to public assistance programs.** **Senator Lenney** explained that this bill required legislative approval for all Department of Health and Welfare (Department) policy decisions with budgetary implications. He pointed to \$15 million dollar budget deficit from the Idaho Child Care program in 2024 as an example of the importance of legislative oversight.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** clarified that the 2024 Legislature approved the expansion of the Idaho Child Care Program. She wondered if the Committee would support agencies spending more or less than directed by the Legislature. **Senator Lenny** explained that as he was not on the 2024 Committee, he could not speak to their actions.

MOTION: **Senator Keyser** moved to send **H 90** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** reiterated that the Committee had approved increased spending to ensure Idaho residents had access to appropriate and qualified childcare. She expressed concern that broad-stroke movements of rules to law limited future flexibility. **Senator Lenny** stated that the bill aimed at increasing accountability.

VOICE VOTE: The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Wintrow** requested to be recorded as voting nay.

H 200 **PHARMACISTS - Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to update provisions regarding the practice of pharmacy in Idaho.** **Representative Redman** stated this bill moved the Board of Pharmacy rules into statute, added stability for business owners, and ensured quality of care for patients.

TESTIMONY: **Ed Sperry**, public member of the Board of Pharmacy, stated this bill provided protection for the public by creating business stability.

Marcus Hurst, Pharmacy Director for Rollins Pharmacy and licensed pharmacist, affirmed this bill allowed pharmacists to practice to their full capacity and would improve patient outcomes.

MOTION: **Senator Bjerke** moved to send **H 200** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Rebecca Kozlowski
Secretary

Christa Khlosterman
Staff Assistant