

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 27, 2026

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

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice Chair Bjerke, Senators Harris, Zuiderveld, Lenney, Shippy, Blaylock, and Keyser

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Chair VanOrden and Senator Wintrow

**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 Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

**GUBERNATORIAL REAPPOINTMENT VOTE:** **Committee Vote on the Gubernatorial Reappointment of Clayton Steele to the Board of Environmental Quality to serve a term commencing July 1, 2025 and expiring July 1, 2029**

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to send the Gubernatorial reappointment of **Clayton Steele** to the Board of Environmental Quality to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed. **Senator Blaylock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 16-0602-2501** **Foster Care Licensing - Temporary and Pending Rule**  
**Jared Larsen**, Chief of Staff, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW), explained the proposed changes to the temporary and pending rules. He outlined the following changes:

1. Rule 102. Disposition of Applications added subsection 03. Kin-specific License.
2. Rule 108. combined rules 109 and 110.
3. Rule 108.02.h added the language "A clearance from the background check unit does not preclude the revocation of a license under this subsection."
4. Rule 201. added subsection 05. Law-Abiding Lifestyle.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Zuiderveld** asked if there had been an increase in program participants with the passage of 2025 H 245. **Mr. Larsen** explained there had been an increase of participants ages 21 to 23. He had not heard any negative feedback regarding the program which he attributed to the program being entirely voluntary. **Vice Chair Bjerke** stated he was a cosponsor on H 245 and asked the IDHW to provide additional information on program participation.

**MOTION:** **Senator Harris** moved to approve the temporary and pending rules in **Docket No. 16-0602-2501**. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.  
16-0613-2501**

**Emergency Assistance for Families and Children (Chapter Repeal) -  
Pending Rule**

**Laura Denner**, Family and Community Partnerships Administrator (IDHW), explained the program these rules governed was entirely federally funded. The rules in this Docket were nearly identical to the federal law and federal rules governing the program. Therefore, she asked the Committee to approve the repeal of this rule chapter.

**MOTION:**

**Senator Shippy** moved to approve **Docket No. 16-0613-2501**. **Senator Blaylock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Vice Chair Bjerke** adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

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Senator VanOrden  
Chair

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Madyson Crea  
Secretary