

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 28, 2026

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

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair VanOrden, Vice Chair 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** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Wintrow** moved to approve the Minutes of January 19, 2026. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

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

**DOCKET NO. 24-2301-2501** **Rules of the Speech, Hearing, and Communication Services Licensure Board (Fee Rule) - Pending Rule.**  
**Ryan Bernard**, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Chief, Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL), presented the proposed rule changes. The passage of 2025 H 311 created a new license type under the Speech, Hearing, and Communication Services Licensure Board (Board). This new license enabled businesses to obtain a Video Remote Interpreting Provider License and eliminated the need for individual licenses for each interpreter employed by a business. The proposed rule change assigned a licensure fee of \$150 for up to five sign language interpreters per business.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Blaylock** asked why the fee included a cap of five sign language interpreters. **Mr. Bernard** explained during the rulemaking process, the Board determined that permitting five employees proportionally benefited companies of varying sizes while ensuring affordability.

**MOTION:** **Senator Wintrow** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-2301-2501**. **Senator Shippy** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Lenney** asked why the proposed fee was three times greater than the base fee. He stated we should be encouraging remote technology and wondered, why the fee was set so high. **Mr. Bernard** explained in comparison to other states with similar license types the proposed fee would be the lowest in the country. **Senator Lenney** commented that for a base fee \$150 was needlessly high.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Vice Chair Bjerke** called for a roll call vote. **Senators Shippy, Blaylock, Wintrow, Vice Chair Bjerke, and Chair VanOrden** voted aye. **Senators Zuiderveld, Lenney, and Keyser** voted nay. The motion carried.

**DOCKET NO. 24-0901-2501**      **Rules of the Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators (Chapter Repeal) - Pending Rule.**  
**Allegra Earl**, Occupational Licensing and Registration Manager, DOPL, requested the Committee approve the repeal of administrative rule Chapter 24.09.01. **Ms. Earl** explained that due to the merger of the Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators and the Board of Examiners of Residential Care Facility Administrators into the Long-Term Care Administrators Board a new combined rule chapter was created to govern the newly consolidated Board.

**MOTION:**      **Senator Blaylock** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-0901-2501**. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 24-1901-2501**      **Rules of the Board of Examiners of Residential Care Facility Administrators (Chapter Repeal) - Pending Rule.**  
**Allegra Earl**, Occupational Licensing and Registration Manager, DOPL, requested the Committee approve the repeal of administrative rule Chapter 24.19.01.

**MOTION:**      **Chair VanOrden** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-1901-2501**. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO. 24-4101-2501**      **Rules of the Long-Term Care Administrators Board (New Chapter) - Pending Rule.**  
**Allegra Earl**, Occupational Licensing and Registration Manager, DOPL, explained that 2025 H 028 merged the Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators and the Board of Examiners of Residential Care Facility Administrators into the Long-Term Care Administrators Board. **Ms. Earl** stated no substantive changes were made to the rules, they were only combined to reflect the new Board. She requested the Committee approve the new consolidated rule chapter.

**MOTION:**      **Senator Blaylock** moved to approve **Docket No. 24-4101-2501**. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

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

**NOTE:**      **Chair VanOrden** invited the American Nurses Association (ANA) to introduce themselves. **Erica Yeager**, President of the Idaho ANA, informed the Committee the group was there with the Nurse Leaders of Idaho and ANA Idaho members for Nurses Day at the Capitol. **Chair VanOrden** thanked the group for attending.

**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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Madysen Crea  
Secretary