

MINUTES  
**SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 24, 2026

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

**PLACE:** Room WW54

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair VanOrden, Vice Chair 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 the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

**S 1313** **NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR LICENSING AND NATUROPATH REGISTRATION – Amends existing law to provide for the voluntary licensure of pharmacists as naturopathic doctors.** **Senator Anthon** stated this legislation would add pharmacists to the naturopathic doctors statute. **Elizabeth Marshall**, second year law student at University of Idaho, explained this legislation improved access to natural health care for all Idahoans and safeguarded public health by requiring any licensed naturopathic doctor who sought to perform minor procedures or exercise prescriptive authority to hold an active and valid Idaho license. To qualify for naturopathic doctor licensure, a pharmacist must have a valid and active license to practice as a pharmacist, possess an approved doctoral degree in naturopathy, and meet minimum competency standards. She stated the legislation would not grant any new privileges and restricted the scope of naturopathic doctors to the current standards in Idaho Code. She emphasized the voluntary nature of licensure and the legislation would not restrict any rights of current pharmacists who chose not to seek naturopathic licensure.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Blaylock** asked why the bill was necessary. **Ms. Marshall** explained the bill presented the opportunity for pharmacists to provide patients in rural communities naturopathic care. **Senator Blaylock** sought clarification on whether allowing pharmacists to incorporate naturopathic practices would create conflicts in professional approaches, standards of care, or malpractice liability. She noted the contradictory nature of pharmacy and naturopathic principles. **Ms. Marshall** explained the two practices would be regulated based on the licensure the professional was practicing under.

**Senator Anthon** explained this section of Idaho Code provided voluntary dual licensure for professionals who obtained additional training in naturopathic medicine. The purpose of the legislation was to allow pharmacists to incorporate naturopathic practices without practicing outside the scope of their primary license. Without dual licensure, professionals who used naturopathic methods could face licensing violations, malpractice suits, or the inability to bill insurance. **S 1313** would allow pharmacists to obtain naturopathic licensure in addition to their pharmacist license if they complete the necessary education and training. Participation was entirely voluntary and only applied to those who pursued the additional credentials. The legislation was introduced because pharmacists previously declined inclusion in this licensure pathway but now wished to be included.

**MOTION:** **Vice Chair Bjerke** moved to send **S 1313** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **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 3:10 p.m.

---

Senator VanOrden  
Chair

---

Madyson Crea  
Secretary