

MINUTES
HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 04, 2026

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW20

MEMBERS: Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Beiswenger, Burgoyne, Cayler, Fuhriman, Leavitt, McCann, Thompson, Hall (Stone), Tanner(13), Rubel, Egbert

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Tanner(13)

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Vander Woude called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He informed the committee **RS 33162** will not be heard at the sponsor's request.

RS 33412: **Rep. Clint Hostetler**, District 24, presented **RS 33412**, proposed legislation for the Merit-Based Healthcare Act to strengthen trust, improve outcomes, and assure Idaho's resources are directed toward efficiency and excellency.

MOTION: **Rep. Beiswenger** made a motion to introduce **RS 33412**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 32997C2: **Rep. Lucas Cayler**, District 11, presented **RS 32997C2** to revise child abandonment investigative procedures to better define duties and responsibilities as well as include the autism spectrum in the training for social workers.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to introduce **RS 32997C2**.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** **Rep. Egbert** made a substitute motion to return **RS 32997C2** to the sponsor.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 9 AYE, 6 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Vander Woude, Erickson, Healey, Wheeler, Fuhriman, McCann, Stone, Rubel, Egbert. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Redman, Beiswenger, Burgoyne, Cayler, Leavitt, Thompson. Rep. Tanner(13) was absent/excused.**

RS 33561: **Rep. Ben Fuhriman**, District 30, presented **RS 33561**, proposed legislation for prompt insurance carrier payments. Definitions are updated and parameters are set to improve the payment process. The Department of Insurance is given the authority to mitigate claim issues. Artificial intelligence transparency language is added.

MOTION: **Rep. Healey** made a motion to introduce **RS 33561**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Vander Woude turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Erickson**.

S 1314: **Rep. John Vander Woude**, District 22, presented **S 1314**, which is part of the 3% expenditures reduction for the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW). Regional directors, regional Behavioral Health Boards, and the Board of Health and Welfare are eliminated, saving \$410k. The Behavioral Health Council remains in place. This legislation becomes effective upon signing.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to send **S 1314** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Answering questions, **Rep. Vander Woude** explained the immediate effective date addresses concern some of the boards will continue to meet and incur expenses. The boards were created before the Behavioral Health Council and the behavioral health managed-care focus.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Vice Chairman Erickson called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1314** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Vice Chairman Erickson** and **Rep. McCann** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Vander Woude** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chairman Erickson turned the gavel over to **Chairman Vander Woude.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Representative Vander Woude
Chair

Irene Moore
Secretary