

MINUTES  
**HOUSE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW20

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Vander Woude, Vice Chairman Erickson, Representatives Blanksma, Kingsley, Mitchell, Dixon(24), Gallagher, Healey, Redman, Wheeler, Chew (Wilson), Rubel, Roberts

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Kingsley

**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.

**H 393:** **Rep. Chenele Dixon(24)**, District 36, presented **H 393** which allows Idaho to join the new interstate counseling compact. There are 32 states currently in the compact and ten states have pending legislation to join. The compact allows counselors to practice in other compact states through an agreement which recognizes their home state license and provides a "privilege-to-practice." Each participating state has one seat on the commission.

Through the compact, in-person or telehealth counseling will provide continued care access for Idahoans who leave the state on a temporary or permanent basis. Participation in the compact is voluntary. The compact data provides communication between states for disciplinary action, licensure status, and patient safety. Access will be increased for clients or counselors in rural areas, the military, and persons moving into Idaho.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Wheeler** made a motion to send **H 393** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**Chad Yates**, Public Policy Chair, Idaho Counseling Association, was invited to answer committee questions. The compact oversees the interstate practice of participating state members, administers the privilege-to-practice, and monitors any ethical violations. Idaho's licensure and practice rules will remain in tact. Idaho offers the highest degree of licensed clinical professional counselor (LCPC) training in the nation, with in the field practice hours. Transferring these hours has been an issue when graduates apply for licensure in other states.

**Stephanie Sherman**, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, President, Idaho Counseling Association (ICA), testified **in support** of **H 393**, explaining her challenges as a military spouse, service member, and counselor. Some of her clients live on the Idaho border, are students who return to their home states during breaks, or are military members going on maneuvers. The current restrictive out of state client contact poses a moral dilemma for counselors.

**Dylan Haas**, Licensed Special Counselor, Member, ICA, testified **in support** of **H 393**. By maintaining the continuity of client care, the compact offers many positives.

**Krista Doubleday**, Executive Board Member, ICA, testified in support of **H 393**. Children may be in dual custody situations with one parent in another state. She faces a moral dilemma if a client calls during a crisis because she legally cannot take their call, but cares about their well being. Trauma patients who may need to escape to another state for their safety can miss critical treatment while they locate a new qualified therapist.

Answering an earlier question, **Ms. Doubleday** said most insurance company plans are linked to larger companies such as Blue Cross. Billings, whether in or out of state, go through the larger company at their approved rates. This eliminates the concept of any billing advantage. The counselors are licensed to protect and do no harm, which is difficult if the client is out of state and in crisis.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**Chairman Vander Woude** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 393** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Dixon(24)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

**DOCKET NO. 16-0103-2301:**

**Jathan Nalls**, Section Manager, System of Care Section Manager, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Preparedness, Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Welfare (DHW), presented **Docket No. 16-0103-2301**. The agency licensure requirements have been updated for clarification and removal of outdated sections. A new, clearer license model has been added. Other changes include declaration and personnel requirements for specialty services, flexibility in air medical transport crews, retention of non-911 transport records, EMS ambulance response criteria, and incorporation by reference of two manuals.

There was a committee question regarding concern for the lack of legislative review for updates to the referenced standards manual. **Mr. Nalls** said the manual contains parts of the rules which were removed, but not changed, for ease of reference.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Vander Woude** made a motion to **HOLD Docket No. 16-0103-2301** in committee, subject to the call of the Vice Chairman.

Speaking to the motion, **Rep. Vander Woude** said he was concerned regarding moving portions of rules into a handbook when there is no legislative review process for handbooks.

**VOTE ON MOTION:**

**Chairman Erickson** called for a vote on the motion to **HOLD Docket No. 16-0103-2301** in committee, subject to the call of the Vice Chairman. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**DOCKET NO. 16-0102-2301:**

**Jathan Nalls**, Section Manager, System of Care Section Manager, Bureau of EMS and Preparedness, Division of Public Health, DHW, presented **Docket No. 16-0102-2301**, for EMS definitions. Changes remove obsolete terminology. New terms added include licensing model, emergency driver procedures and emergency driver response.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Redman** made a motion to approve **Docket No. 16-0102-2301**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**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 10:00 a.m.

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Representative Erickson  
Chair

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Irene Moore  
Secretary