

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 14, 2019

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Souza, Senators Heider, Lee, Harris, Burtenshaw, Bayer, Jordan, and Nelson

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: **Chairman Martin** called the meeting of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

HONOR AND WELCOME PAGES: **Chairman Martin** and the Committee thanked the Committee Page Landen Richardson for his service and welcomed Jakob Alt who will serve as the Committee Page for the remainder of this Legislative Session.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT VOTE: **Senator Jordan** moved to send the Gubernatorial reappointment of Allan Schneider to the Idaho Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to the floor with recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 22 **Roger Hales**, Administrative Attorney, Bureau of Occupational Licenses, presented **H 22**, relating to speech and hearing services, on behalf of the Speech, Hearing, and Communication Services Board (Board). This bill will eliminate a potential barrier to licensure, allowing licensees to show proof of licensure electronically rather than solely through a paper license. This flexibility is very beneficial to sign language interpreters, which is a particularly mobile profession. Further, the bill eliminates the age requirement as a qualification for obtaining a sign language interpreter's license. The Board determined that the other qualifications for licensure were enough to ensure minimum competency.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Bayer** asked for clarification regarding the education requirement. **Mr. Hales** replied that a licensee must complete high school or receive a high school equivalency diploma. That is independent from the qualification requiring the national examination to establish competency as a sign language interpreter.

MOTION: **Senator Nelson** moved to send **H 22** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Bayer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1054 **Kelli Brassfield**, Idaho Association of Counties (Association), presented **S 1054** regarding appointing authority to the regional behavioral health boards. The Association hopes to remove the requirement that the appointing authority for these boards must be a Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. This bill provides the flexibility for any commissioner to fill that seat.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Harris** inquired where the requirement to have the Chairman fill that seat originated. **Ms. Brassfield** reported that the original language upon implementation for these regional boards included a chairman, but she did not have the history regarding why.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **S 1054** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1055 **Ms. Brassfield** presented **S 1055**, regarding marriage applications and the educational Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) pamphlet. The requirement for clerks to provide this information was implemented in 1988. Since then, the state has done an extraordinary job in outreach and education. The Department of Health and Welfare has many options for disseminating this information. They contract with all seven public health districts for outreach activities and education. They also contract with community-based organizations, federally qualified health clinics, and other community health centers throughout the state. These outreach and education activities are more effective than relying on a marriage application.

MOTION: **Senator Souza** moved to send **S 1055** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1098 **Senator Heider** presented **S 1098**, relating to bone marrow donation. The bill recommends that physicians inquire of new patients between the ages of 18 and 45, whether or not they are registered for the bone marrow registry, and if not, to encourage them to do so. The Department of Health and Welfare (Department) shall provide educational materials that inform the population of the benefits of bone marrow donation, how to join the bone marrow registry, and how to acquire free buccal swab kits. Notification may be verbal, in print, or in electronic form. The Department may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. There is a federal program called Be the Match that will provide all printed materials regarding bone marrow donation, significantly reducing any cost to the state.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Bayer** wondered why donors were required to be under 45 years of age. Discussion ensued regarding the biochemistry of bone marrow and the relative risk associated with any medical procedure after a certain age.

Senator Nelson inquired whether physicians use this approach for other organ donations. **Senator Heider** offered that the state encourages people to register for organ donation via driver's license campaigns and the Legislature has carried bills in the past to encourage college students to register. Idaho encourages everyone to register to become an organ donor so that we might save lives, and this bill would add bone marrow registry.

MOTION: **Senator Nelson** moved to send **S 1098** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Bayer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Senator Martin
Chair

Margaret Major
Secretary