

Brian Whitlock
Idaho Hospital Association

ATTACHMENT 1
1/27/2020

S 1242

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Brian Whitlock, and I am the President of the Idaho Hospital Association. We represent 46 member hospitals all across the state – in urban and rural settings.

12 of those hospitals also operate a nursing home or have skilled nursing facility beds. (Bear Lake, Bingham, Boundary, Caribou, Franklin, Minidoka, Nell J. Redfield, Power County, St. Luke's Elmore, St. Luke's Rehab, Idaho State – South, and the VA.)

In some of those facilities, the hospital CEO wears two hats – hospital CEO and nursing home administrator.

Idaho Code 54-1605 spells out the requirements for obtaining a nursing home administrator's license – which includes completion of 1000 hours in an "administrator-in-training" program.

Later in Chapter 1610, the statute grants two exemptions to that 1000 hour training program -- if you have a Masters Degree in Health Administration with an emphasis in long-term care, or, if you have a MHA and one year of management experience in long-term care.

Senate Bill 1242 adds one additional exemption. On Line 28 of the bill before you, it allows you to waive the 1000 training program if you have a Masters Degree – like an MBA -- with an emphasis in health care, along with one year of management experience in an inpatient facility.

Again, this could be an MHA – or it could be a Masters in Business Administration with an emphasis in health care.

While a Masters in Health Administration is more immersive in healthcare, the Masters in Business Administration, with an emphasis in health administration, recognizes the increased role of technology, changes in reimbursement, the rise in consumerism, and the diversified ways healthcare is delivered today as having changed health care, and thus, healthcare administration.

Both the MHA and MBA with an emphasis in health administration include course work in:

Accounting and Finance Economics Statistics Marketing
Business Strategy and Management Principles Organizational Behavior
Law and Ethics Business Operations and Technology

This bill recognizes that both an MHA and an MBA with an emphasis in health care, combined with at least a year's management experience in an inpatient setting, are both valuable prerequisites that should adequately prepare a nursing home administrator applicant to sit for the nursing home administrator licensing exam.

This is a simple, but important change that will allow us to continue to attract qualified administrators to the state – especially in the more rural parts of Idaho.

I encourage your yes vote to send this to the floor with a do pass recommendation.

I'd stand for questions.