

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 24, 2022

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Martin, Vice Chairman Riggs, Senators Heider, Lee, Harris, Zito, Stennett, and Wintrow

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator VanOrden (Bair)

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) at 3:00 p.m.

S 1286 **PSYCHOLOGISTS - Amends existing law to provide for service extenders.** **Lance Giles**, contract lobbyist representing Idaho Psychological Association introduced himself to the Committee. He stated Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses Council (DOPL) determined that the statutory language that the Board of Psychological Examiners (BPE) had been using to regulate and permit service extenders was insufficient and this bill was meant to correct that. **Mr. Giles** walked the Committee through the changes. (see Attachment 1)

DISCUSSION: **Senator Heider** asked for clarification of service extenders. **Mr. Giles** stated they were people that worked under a license psychologist such as graduate students. **Senator Lee** asked if anyone in academia could supervise service extenders. **Lyn McArthur** introduced herself to the Committee. She stated that someone working in academia who had a doctoral degree in psychology would have been hired out of their doctoral program to participate as a supervisor for students in the doctoral program. They would also have a supervisor and part of our service agreement that we would have with our service standards would list out the different levels of supervisors so those service extenders would have adequate supervision to supervisors.

TESTIMONY: The following testified in support of **S 1286**

- Dr. Lyn McArthur, Idaho Psychological Association and Health West Inc.
- Dr. Steven Lawyer, Idaho State University Department of Psychology and Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology
- Dr. Susan Martin, Idaho Psychology Internship Consortium
- Dr. Elizabeth List, Director and Chair. Psychology Department, Northwest Nazarene University

They cited the need for extended service providers, current shortages, and explained without them the waitlist for services would be dramatically increased.

VOTE: **Senator Harris** moved to send **S 1286** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1305

PSYCHOLOGISTS - Adds to existing law to provide for Idaho's participation in the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact and to establish provisions regarding such compact. **Lance Giles** introduced himself to the Committee. He stated the proposed legislation would allow Idaho to participate in an interstate compact for the delivery of psychological services. Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) allows Idaho psychologists the opportunity to work across state lines in 27 other states and at the same time allows licensed psychologists from twenty seven other states to practice in Idaho. (see Attachment 2)

TESTIMONY:

The following testified in support of **S 1286**:

- Dr. Kendra Westerhaus, Idaho Psychological Association and Health West Inc.
- Dr. Carrie Eichberg, Idaho Psychological Association and self
- Dr. Christopher Edwards, Idaho Psychological Association
- Dr. Lyn McArthur, Idaho Psychological Association and Health West Inc.

They cited the need for Idaho to join PSYPACT to enable them to continue seeing their patients who leave the area. The Department of Defense was also a proponent of this bill due to the number of military members and family that relocate. Psychologists often had a specialty and having the ability to treat patients in another state would be very beneficial.

DISCUSSION:

Senator Lee asked about treating patients in other states during the pandemic. **Dr. Eichberg** responded that some states had allowed it under an emergency clause but the liability insurance companies had advised against doing so. **Senator Wintrow** asked about the process to join the compact and if the language in the bill was from the compact. **Dr. Eichberg** responded that this is voluntary and it does not allow you to be fully licensed in another state but was done through telehealth. **Mr. Giles** answered yes, the language in the bill was the same as the other 27 states. **Senator Wintrow** inquired about the process **Dr. Janet Orwig**, Executive Director, PSYPACT introduced herself to the Committee. She responded if another state received a complaint regarding a psychologist they would take a cease and desist against that psychologist and would be removed from PSYPACT. The Idaho board could then also take action against the license.

VOTE:

Senator Harris moved to send **S 1305** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Heider** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 515

STATE EMPLOYEES - Amends existing law to clarify that public health district employees are not part of the state personnel system. **Michelle Peugh**, HR Business Partner, Idaho Division of Human Resources, introduced herself to the Committee. She stated the purpose of this legislation was to clarify statute language changes made during the 2021 legislative session. H 316 amended a section of code related to the health districts and moved all decision making authority to the public health district boards and directors. **Ms. Peugh** continued that public health districts were no longer required to comply with the state merit system, as outlined in Chapter 53 Title 67 with the exception which allowed the public health districts to continue to participate in PERSI.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Harris** stated there was an issue with part of this legislation related to risk management and insurance. **Chairman Martin** explained there was a request to send it to the 14th order for amendment. He asked Mike Kane to speak on the issue. **Mike Kane** introduced himself to the Committee. He relayed there was an issue with insurance, specifically property, casualty, and medical malpractice insurance. **Mr. Kane** stated the public health districts have been under the Bureau of Risk Management (BRM) for the last 50 years but since they were no longer being classified as a public entity they needed clarification on whether they could remain on the insurance. He provided details on private insurance and the cost being up to 300% more. He added that Senator Harris had a proposal to keep the health districts under the BRM.

MOTION: **Vice Chairman Riggs** moved to send **H 515** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Stennett** seconded the motion.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **H 515** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 516 **PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICTS - Amends existing law to provide for the power of district health director to establish a personnel system.** **Michelle Peugh**, introduced herself to the Committee. She stated the legislation clarified statute changes made in H 316, specifically it removed the requirement that health districts comply with the state personnel system and were responsible for establishing a personnel system that establishes rates of pay for appointments, promotions, demotions, separations and other such personnel actions as were needed.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** asked for clarification that health districts were not receiving money from the state but from the counties or districts. **Mr. Kane** answered that she was correct.

VOTE: **Senator Wintrow** moved to send **H 516** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Riggs** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. Senator Wintrow will carry on the floor.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Senator Lee being absent, the minutes will be moved to the next Committee meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Senator Harris being absent, those minutes will be moved to the next Committee meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Stennett** moved to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2022. **Senator Wintrow** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Martin** adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Senator Martin
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary