

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, March 04, 2024

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair VanOrden, Senators Lee, Harris, Bjerke, Zuiderveld, Wintrow, and Taylor

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

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Tim Morgan of Boise, Idaho to the Hazardous Waste Facility Siting License Application Review Panel, term Commencing February 23, 2024 and expiring February 23, 2027. Mr. Morgan** stated his background as a licensed professional engineer included broad experience working with public agencies, contractors, and consulting engineering firms, as well as, managing operations for an engineering, environmental, and construction material testing firm.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of Joseph Medeiros of Idaho Falls, Idaho to the Hazardous Waste Facility Siting License Application Review Panel, term Commencing February 23, 2024 and expiring February 23, 2027. Mr. Medeiros** stated his background as a professional engineer included numerous years of experience working with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulations, as well as, serving as project lead at the Idaho National Laboratory dealing with hazardous waste storage and disposal.

H 528 **CERTIFIED FAMILY HOMES - Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to modify provisions regarding certified family homes. Senator Wintrow** introduced **H 528** then yielded her time to Steven Millward, Program Manager for the Certified Family Home Program in the Division of Licensing and Certification.

Mr. Millward described how **H 528** provided a comprehensive overhaul of Idaho Code Chapter 35, Title 39, titled "Idaho Certified Family Homes". The modifications eliminated conflicts and inconsistencies, benefitted residents by strengthening their home security through bolstering the admission agreements, and improved care by adding standards for the development of plans of service. The revisions allowed the State to operate more responsibly by removing the limitation for a care provider to hold only one provisional certificate in the 12-month period, and eliminated conflicts and inconsistencies throughout the chapter.

Some of the most critical and relevant additions to the chapter included protecting vulnerable adults from abuse or exploitation; providing the right of refusal by the resident if they were uncomfortable with the staff assigned and to have acceptable staff assigned; providing living environments free of illicit drug use or possession and other criminal activities; provided the right to make choices

free from intimidation, manipulation, and coercion; and allowed the right to have personal property in their living space as long as the space met safety standards.

This chapter corrected the supplemental security income (SSI) payment and provider payment section to state that the care provider charges were deducted from the resident's total monthly SSI income with the remainder providing the resident an amount to cover co-pays on medication, clothing, entertainment, and related items. Revisions in this chapter aligned access and visitation rights to the Essential Caregivers Act to guarantee that certain people were always permitted to see the resident at any time. Additional clarifications to the chapter included resident rights to choose hospice services, resident rights to refuse treatment, resident rights to move to another facility, and provided residents support for their right to vote.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Lee** asked for clarification on the use of provisional certificates. **Mr. Millward** explained that there were various types of provisional certificates used for the purpose of helping the provider achieve compliance while being monitored for up to six months to ensure successful compliance. **Senator Wintrow** expressed concern regarding the discretion to impose conditions. Broad wording allowed for arbitrary or capricious conditions. **Mr. Millward** clarified that a three-level appeal process and hearing process would be used in the certification process. This section of the chapter pertained to provisional certification and ability to analyze a particular situation to achieve compliance.

MOTION: **Senator Harris** moved to send **H 528** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 439 **IDAHO IMMUNIZATION ASSESSMENT BOARD - Amends session law to extend a sunset date to 2029.** **Senator Lee** introduced **H 439** and explained that this bill reset the sunset date for the Idaho Immunization Assessment Board (IAB) from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2029 then yielded her time to Norm Varin, Chair of the Idaho Immunization Assessment Board. **Mr. Varin** provided an overview explaining the federal Vaccines for Children program allowed states access to discounted vaccine costs for children and allowed the purchase of all vaccinations at one price. The purpose of the IAB was to approve an annual per-covered child assessment fee from health insurance carriers and self-funded plan sponsors to fund a dedicated vaccine purchasing program. This bill extended the sunset date for the IAB enabling the IAB to continue the vaccine purchasing program. **Senator Lee** emphasized that the work of the IAB allowed purchase of all vaccinations at one price, and did not require vaccinations for anyone. Vaccines were purchased at the lowest possible price which created efficiency for our providers (Attachment 1).

MOTION: **Senator Bjerke** moved to send **H 439** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Harris** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time. **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary