

MINUTES
SENATE HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024
- TIME:** 2:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW54
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair VanOrden, Senators Lee, Bjerke, Zuiderveld, Wintrow, and Taylor
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Harris
- 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 Senate Health and Welfare Committee (Committee) to order at 2:01 p.m.
- GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:** **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of James McNamara of Boise, Idaho to the Hazardous Waste Facility Siting License Application Review Panel, term commencing February 23, 2024 and expiring February 23, 2027.**
- MOTION:** **Senator Taylor** moved to send the gubernatorial appointment of James McNamara to the Hazardous Waste Facility Siting License Application Review Panel to the floor with the recommendation that he be confirmed by the Senate. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- H 526** **HEALTH - Adds to the existing law to prohibit pelvic exams of anesthetized and unconscious patients except under certain circumstances.** **Representative Green** stated that this legislation codified in State statute the best practices pertaining to pelvic exams for educational purposes. Patients who were victims of a sex crime and needed a pelvic exam to collect evidence were removed from the legislation because the exam would not be done without their consent.
- MOTION:** **Senator Lee** moved to send **H 526** to the floor with a **do pass recommendation**. **Senator Taylor** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.
- H 525** **HEALTH DISTRICTS - Amends the existing law to revise the powers and duties of the district boards of health.** **Senator Lenney** stated that this legislation added a layer of accountability to public health districts. It changed the words from "all" to "necessary and reasonable" as it pertained to what these districts could do in the name of preventative health.
- TESTIMONY:** **Steven Keyser, David Pettinger, Doug Toubel, Miste Karlfeldt, Karey Hanks, and Rosa Martinez** all testified in support of **H 525**. Their comments included:
- The power to do "all things" was too broad.
 - There was unnecessary trauma experienced by Idaho citizens from the health districts' power.
 - The power to do "all things" took away from citizens' sovereignty.

MOTION: **Senator Bjerke** moved to send **H 525** to the floor with a **do pass recommendation**. **Senator Zuiderveld** seconded the motion. **Senator Lee** called for a roll call vote. **Chair VanOrden, Senator Bjerke, and Zuiderveld** voted aye. **Senators Wintrow, Lee, and Taylor** voted nay. The motion failed on a tie vote.

H 633 **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE - Adds to the existing law to modify eligibility for public assistance for pregnant women.** **Representative Blanksma** stated that this legislation would extend Medicaid benefits for twelve months for postpartum women who were eligible to receive Medicaid.

TESTIMONY: **Ivy Smith**, Idaho Kids Covered; **Sara Thomson**, Saint Alphonsus Health System and The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG); **Erin Bennett**, American Heart Association; **David Ripley**, Idaho Chooses Life; and **Kelly Wilson**, Association of Women's Health, testified in support of **H 633**. Their comments included:

- Women and children should be supported and cared for.
- Maternal mortality rates were high and this legislation would help mothers postpartum.

Fred Birnbaum, Idaho Freedom Foundation, testified against **H 633**. He stated that the cost of extended Medicaid services would be too high.

MOTION: **Senator Wintrow** moved to send **H 633** to the floor with a **do pass recommendation**. **Senator Lee** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Zuiderveld** requested to be recorded as voting nay.

CONVENED: There being no further business at this time, **Chair VanOrden** adjourned the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

Senator VanOrden
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary

Madison Schrader
Asst. Secretary