

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, November 19, 2003 – 8:00 a.m. – Room 129 State Capitol

Members Present:

Rep. Mike Thompson, House Chair
Sen. James M. Evans
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Sen. Paula F. Julander
Sen. David L. Thomas
Rep. Calvin G. Bird
Rep. Judy Ann Buffmire
Rep. Marda Dillree
Rep. Craig Frank
Rep. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Brad Last
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Rebecca Lockhart

Rep. Steven R. Mascaro
Rep. Darin G. Peterson
Rep. J. Morgan Philpot
Rep. Jack A. Seitz

Members Absent:

Sen. Sheldon L. Killpack, Senate Chair

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. Catherine J. Dupont, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Stacey M. Snyder, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at www.le.utah.gov or by contacting the committee secretary, Joy Miller, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. Sen. Killpack was excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2003 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Dillree and Rep. Philpot were absent for the vote.

2. Health Insurance – Repeal of Diabetes Coverage

MOTION: Rep. Seitz moved to accept the report mailed to the Committee from the Department of Insurance and to remove diabetic coverage from the repealer act. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Dillree and Rep. Philpot were absent for the vote.

The Committee thanked the Department of Insurance for their hard work in developing the report.

Mr. Merwin Stewart, Insurance Commissioner, said the Department had the cooperation of industry in gathering the information necessary for the report which was prepared by Dr. Jeff Hawley.

3. Medicaid Sunset

Mr. Michael Deily, Division of Healthcare Finance, reviewed the Medicaid program in light of the statutory sunset review criteria. He noted that the majority of funding for the program comes from the federal government. The state's match rate is approximately 29 percent from the General Fund. Mr. Deily stressed the need to pay providers a reasonable amount of money for their services to Medicaid recipients.

MOTION: Rep. Buffmire moved to reauthorize the Medical Assistance Act for an additional ten years. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Philpot was absent for the vote.

4. Veterinary Practice Act - Sunset Review

Mr. Daniel Jones, DOPL (Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing), stated that the act is an integral part of the farming area. He discussed the number of licensed veterinarians in the state. Mr. Jones stated that veterinarians are an excellent group of practitioners.

Mr. Dale Zabriskie, representing veterinarians, said the veterinarians are very happy with the Veterinary Practice Act and their relationship with DOPL. He encouraged the reauthorization of the act.

MOTION: Rep. Dillree moved to reauthorize the Veterinary Practice Act for an additional ten years. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Philpot was absent for the vote.

5. Massage Therapy Practice Act - Sunset Review

Mr. Clyde Ormond, DOPL, stated there are 4,000 individuals licensed under the act. DOPL receives approximately 1,000 new applicants per year. He pointed out that although DOPL does not regulate massage therapy schools, a school must be approved by the Division of Consumer protection and its curriculum must be approved by an accredited body. The division is moving to put massage therapy schools on par with other post-secondary schools in terms of accreditation requirements.

MOTION: Rep. Julander moved to reauthorize the Massage Therapy Practice Act for an additional ten years. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Philpot was absent for the vote.

6. Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel - Annual Report

Chair Thompson turned the chair over to Rep. Jones.

Rep. Thompson and Rep. Litvack briefly reported on the work of the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel. Rep. Thompson distributed a copy of a letter he received from a citizen which he said is typical of the comments the panel received during the year. Rep. Litvack said that Utah has one of the lowest rates in the nation of removing children from the home.

7. Insurance Code Exemption

Sen. Bell said the bill would provide an exemption from the insurance code for death, accident, and health benefits provided by a charitable, educational, social, or religious organization to its volunteers who would not otherwise have access to health care benefits. He distributed a letter from the Deputy Insurance Commissioner addressing concerns raised at the last meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Julander moved to accept draft legislation "Insurance Code Exemption" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Other Committee Business

Mr. Wayne Kidd and Tim Osterstock, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, briefly discussed "A Performance Audit of the Public Employees Health Program (PEHP) and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)." It has been recommended that CHIP make contract provisions to protect itself from paying twice for vaccines. It is also recommended that CHIP explore the possibility of utilizing the HMO plans in the rural areas of the state.

Rep. Thompson indicated that the update on the Valley Mental Health audit and recommendations from the Department of Insurance for improving the health insurance industry in the state will be forwarded to the Committee when they are received.

9. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Frank moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Thompson adjourned the meeting at 9:55 a.m.