

MINUTES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR
Meeting Jointly
Tuesday, May 21, 2024
10:00 AM
Room A, MAC
Little Rock, Arkansas

Committee members present: Senators Missy Irvin, Chair; Justin Boyd, Scott Flippo, Fredrick J. Love, and David Wallace; Representatives Josh Miller, Vice Chair; Fred Allen, Mary Bentley, Jon S. Eubanks, Kenneth B. Ferguson, Jack Ladyman, Mark Perry, R. Scott Richardson, Bart Schulz, Jeff Wardlaw, and Jeremy Wooldridge

Other members present: Senator Jim Dotson; Representatives Stan Berry, Denise Jones Ennett, Vivian Flowers, Shad Pearce, David Ray, Jay Richardson, Johnny Rye, Joy Springer, and Trey Steimel

Senator Irvin called the meeting to order.

Consideration to Approve the April 30, 2024, Meeting Minutes [Exhibit B]

Senator Flippo made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Representative Eubanks, and the motion carried.

Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment (E&E), Division of Environmental Quality, Review of Rule, Rule 12: “Storage Tanks” [Exhibit C]

Michael McAlister, Managing Attorney, E&E, discussed Rule 12, which deals with the regulation of petroleum storage tanks.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Division of Health Related Boards, Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN), Review of Rule, Chapter One: General Provisions [Exhibit D] [Handout 1]

Sue Tedford, Executive Director, ASBN, ADH, and David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN, ADH, discussed rules pertaining to general provisions.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, Chapter Two: Licensure: RN, LPN, LPTN [Exhibit E] [Handout 1]

Sue Tedford, Executive Director, ASBN, ADH; and David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN, ADH; discussed rules pertaining to Registered Nurse, Licensed Practical Nurse, and Licensed Psychiatric Technician Nurse licensure.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, Chapter Six: Standards for Nursing Education Programs [Exhibit F] [Handout 1]

Sue Tedford, Executive Director, ASBN, ADH, and David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN, ADH, discussed rules pertaining to standards in nursing education programs.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, Chapter Seven: Rules of Procedures [Exhibit G] [Handout 1]

Sue Tedford, Executive Director, ASBN, ADH, and David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN, ADH, discussed rules pertaining to procedures in order to include all application types received.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, Chapter Eight: Medication Assistant-Certified [Exhibit H] [Handout 1]

Sue Tedford, Executive Director, ASBN, ADH, and David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN, ADH, discussed rules pertaining to medication assistant-certified rules so they align with current statute.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, Chapter Nine: Insulin, Glucagon, and Medication for Adrenal Insufficiency or Adrenal Crisis [Exhibit I] [Handout 1]

Sue Tedford, Executive Director, ASBN, ADH, and David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN, ADH, discussed rules pertaining to insulin, glucagon, and medication for Adrenal Insufficiency or Adrenal Crisis in order to align with Act 1050 of 2021.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, Chapter Ten: Alternative to Discipline [Exhibit J] [Handout 1]

Sue Tedford, Executive Director, ASBN, ADH, and David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN, ADH, discussed rules pertaining to Alternative to Discipline rules to broaden individuals eligible for participation to include individuals licensed by the Board of Nursing and those who are certified.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Division of Health Related Boards, ASBN, Review of Rule, Chapter Eleven: Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee [Exhibit K] [Handout 1]

Sue Tedford, Executive Director, ASBN, ADH, and David Dawson, General Counsel, ASBN, ADH, discussed rules pertaining to the Full Independent Practice Credentialing Committee in order to align with current statute.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Center of Health Protection, Health Facility Services Branch, Review of Rule, Rules for Critical Access Hospitals in Arkansas [Exhibit L]

Paula Day, Health Facilities Section Chief, ADH; David Mitchum, Program Manager-Hospitals, ADH; and Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; discussed rules pertaining to critical access hospitals in Arkansas. This includes the posting of written notice that attacking a healthcare professional is a felony.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Center of Health Protection, Health Facility Services Branch, Review of Rule, Rules for Hospitals and Related Institutions in Arkansas [Exhibit M]

Paula Day, Health Facilities Section Chief, ADH; David Mitchum, Program Manager-Hospitals, ADH; and Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; discussed rules pertaining to hospitals and related institutions in Arkansas.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Center of Health Protection, Health Facility Services Branch, Review of Rule, Rules for Free Standing Birthing Centers in Arkansas [Exhibit N]

Paula Day, Health Facilities Section Chief, ADH; David Mitchum, Program Manager-Hospitals, ADH; and Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; discussed rules pertaining to free standing birthing centers in Arkansas. The rules include that state abortion can only be performed to save the life of a pregnant woman.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Center of Health Protection, Health Facility Services Branch, Review of Rule, Rules for Private Care Agencies in Arkansas [Exhibit O]

Paula Day, Health Facilities Section Chief, ADH; Kirk Gardner, Program Manager, ADH; and Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; discussed rules pertaining to amending the aid training requirement to include Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Center of Health Protection, Health Facility Services Branch, Review of Rule, Rules for Home Health Agencies in Arkansas [Exhibit P]

Paula Day, Health Facilities Section Chief, ADH; Kirk Gardner, Program Manager, ADH; and Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; discussed rules pertaining to home health agencies in Arkansas.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

ADH, Center of Health Protection, Health Facility Services Branch, Review of Rule, Rules for Hospice Agencies in Arkansas [Exhibit Q]

Paula Day, Health Facilities Section Chief, ADH; Kirk Gardner, Program Manager, ADH; and Laura Shue, General Counsel, ADH; discussed rules pertaining to hospice agencies in Arkansas.

Senator Irvin stated that, without objection, this rule stands as reviewed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.