

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharon Schwartz at 12:00 P.M. on March 26, 2007 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Lee Tafanelli- excused
Representative Tom Sawyer- excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department
Becky Krahl, Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department
Aaron Klaassen, Legislative Research Department
Amy VanHouse, Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes
Nikki Feuerborn, Chief of Staff
Shirley Jepson, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

See attached list.

- Attachment 1 Budget Committee Report on **HB 2144**
- Attachment 2 Budget Committee Report on **HB 2547**
- Attachment 3 Amendment to **HB 2547**
- Attachment 4 Budget Committee Report on **HB 2236**

Representative Feuerborn moved to introduce legislation for a House Resolution to prohibit House members from requesting an amendment to be drafted after 11:00 p.m. during the first 85 days of the Legislative Session. The motion was seconded by Representative Gatewood. Motion carried.

Representative Schwartz moved to introduce legislation concerning SRS oversight committee. The motion was seconded by Representative Bethell. Motion carried.

Discussion and Action on HB 2144 - Nursing facility reimbursement rates, rolling base year.

Representative Bethell, Chair of the Social Services Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on **HB 2144** and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee recommendation (Attachment 1). The motion was seconded by Representative Kelsey. Motion carried.

The Budget Committee explained that **HB 2144** would amend existing law to change the nursing facility reimbursement rate methodology from the three-year average of 2003, 2004, and 2005 to be rebased at least once every seven years to the average of the three most recent calendar years. During the 2006 Legislative Session, a proviso was added to the appropriations bill to accomplish the same function. The Budget Committee stated that the passage of **HB 2144** would increase expenditures in the Department on Aging's nursing facility program by \$8.0 million from all funding sources, of which \$3.2 million is from the FY 2008 State General Fund (SGF). This amount would be in addition to the Governor's Budget Report.

Representative Bethell moved to recommend **HB 2144** favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Kelsey.

Representative Bethell made a substitute motion to amend **HB 2144** by adding language to postpone the implementation date until FY 2009. The motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

Some Committee members voiced concern regarding the action to amend **HB 2144** at this time and

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preferred to hold action until Omnibus to determine if the funding of \$3.2 million is available and where it can best be used. Another opinion voiced indicated that they thought it is important to look at Home and Community Bases Services (HCBS) waiting lists and rate increases before restricting the use of \$3.2 million SGF to **HB 2144**.

Representative Bethell moved to recommend **HB 2144** as amended favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Kelsey. Motion carried.

Discussion and Action on HB 2547 - Primary care safety net clinic capital loan guarantee act.

Representative Bethell, Chair of the Social Services Budget Committee, presented the Budget Committee report on **HB 2547** and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee report (Attachment 2). The motion was seconded by Representative Kelsey. Motion carried.

Representative Bethell moved to recommend **HB 2547** favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Kelsey.

Representative Bethell made a substitute motion to amend **HB 2547** by the striking language and insertion of other language (Attachment 3). The motion was seconded by Representative Kelsey. Motion carried.

The Budget Committee stated that the bill would allow not-for-profit entities to borrow money at a lower interest rate because of the state guarantee.

Representative Bethell moved to recommend **HB 2547** as amended favorable for passage. The motion was seconded by Representative Kelsey. Motion carried.

Discussion and Action on HB 2236 - Geriatric mental health act.

Representative Bethell, Chair of the Social Services Budget committee, presented the Budget Committee report on **HB 2236** and moved for the adoption of the Budget Committee report to recommend **HB 2236** for an interim study (Attachment 4). The motion was seconded by Representative Ballard. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be "on call of the Chair".

Sharon Schwartz, Chair