

MINUTES OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
April 15, 1981

The Human Services Committee convened at 12:15 p.m. in Room 103 of the Capitol on April 15, 1981 with CHAIRMAN BUDD GOULD presiding. All members were present except Representatives Bergene, Keyser, Seifert, Conn and Metcalf. Those excused were Representatives Pavlovich and Menahan.

SJR 34

SENATOR HAGER opened the hearing on SJR 34, which requests an interim study of licensing laws regarding facilities that provide protective oversight, supervision, personal care, rehabilitation and health care to the young, disabled, infirm, or elderly of the state. He said that the Senate Human Services Committee had observed a duplication of services and efforts in this area and felt that a study might remedy the situation.

PROPONENTS:

JUDITH H. CARLSON, Deputy Director of the Social and Rehabilitation Services, said she had appeared at a number of "licensing" bills and has been frustrated at the number. She welcomed scrutiny given regarding licensing.

ROSE SKOOG, representing the Montana Nursing Home Association appeared in support of the bill, saying she had no amendments to offer.

WARREN BRASS, representing the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (DHES) and appearing for George Fenner, who was unable to be there, said the department would like to offer the services of Dale Farmer to assist any staff that this resolution would create. He urged support of the bill.

DOUGLAS OLSON, legal counsel for the DHES, read written testimony (EXHIBIT I) favoring the bill.

OPPONENTS:

There were none.

QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE:

REP. BARDANOUVE asked for a definition of a "swing bed" spoken of in the bill. MR. OLSON said it was the double use of a bed as a result of need--it could be either a bed for nursing home care, or for regular hospital use.

REP. WINSLOW asked if hospitals are included in the study.

SENATOR HAGER said they were not specifically mentioned but he felt they would possibly be included. REP. GOULD felt the inclusion of "swing beds" would automatically include hospitals.

MR. BRASS of the DHES agreed.

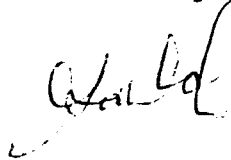
SENATOR HAGER told the committee that another study was made in 1976, but that it did not include areas of licensure addressed by this bill. He then closed the hearing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

REP. NILSON moved that SJR 34 DO PASS. The motion was seconded and PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

REP. SIVERTSEN was assigned to CARRY THE BILL.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.



BUDD GOULD, Chairman

rj

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House Committee on Human Services
(Public Health, Welfare & Safety)

re: Senate Joint Resolution 34

Testimony of Department of Health and Environmental Sciences
presented by Douglas Olson, Staff Attorney.

The Department of Health and Environmental Sciences supports Senate Joint Resolution 34 which calls for an interim study of the various laws relating to the licensure of health, social and institutional facilities which are administered by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, the Department of Institutions and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. There are many different types of facilities governed under existing laws and rules with many facilities being licensed by more than one department. The need on state and federal levels to license each type of facility referenced in SJR 34 and the specific requirements for licensure should be carefully examined.

The Department of Health and Environmental Sciences which presently licenses personal care homes, skilled and intermediate care facilities, rehabilitation facilities and other health care facilities, as well as roominghouses and retirement homes, extends its cooperation in this effort.

Thank you.

