

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Health & Human Services Committee
Thursday, March 14th, 2024
8:30am Livestream YouTube

Minutes

Present: Senator Melissa H. Wiklund – Chair, Senator Alice Mann – Vice Chair, Senator Paul Utke – Minority Lead, Senator Jim Abeler, Senator Liz Boldon, Senator John Hoffman, Senator Rob Kupec, Senator Bill Lieske, Senator Kelly Morrison

Absent:

Chair Wiklund called the meeting to order at 8:31 am on Thursday, March 14th, 2024, in Room 1100 of the Minnesota Senate Building. A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: Senate File 3134 (MARTY): Human remains conversion to basic elements using natural organic reduction; natural organic reduction facilities licensure requirements establishment

The first item on the agenda was Senate File 3134, authored by Senator Marty as follows:

Senate File 3134 (Marty): Human remains conversion to basic elements using natural organic reduction; natural organic reduction facilities licensure requirements establishment

Senator Marty provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 3134 to the committee.

Senator Mann moved the A1 Amendment.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 3134:

- Former State Senator Caroline Laine testified in support of Senate File 3134.
- Taelor Johnson, communication director with Mueller Memorial, testified in support of Senate File 3134.
- Janet McGee, licensed mortician and founder of The Lifted LLC testified in support of Senate File 3134.
- Eric Halaas, FINNOVATION Fellow, testified in support of Senate File 3134.
- Haley Morris, head of communications and Government affairs for Earth Funeral Group, testified in support of Senate File 3134.
- Judy Cook, representing the Minnesota Funeral Directors Association, testified in opposition to Senate File 3134.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Marty provided closing comments for Senate File 3134.

Senator Morrison moved that Senate File 3134, as amended, be recommended to pass and be re-referred to the committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND SENATE FILE 3134, AS AMENDED WAS PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Senate File 3451 (BOLDON): Mental health services provision modification

The second item on the agenda was Senate File 3451, authored by Senator Boldon follows:

Senate File 3451 (Boldon): Mental health services provision modification

Senator Boldon moved the A2 Amendment.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A2 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

Senator Boldon provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 3451, as amended, to the committee.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 3451:

- Shannon Brown, CEO of Fernbrook Family Center, testified on Senate File 3451.
- Melissa Winkler, Director of Quality Assurance at Northwood Children's Services, testified in support of Senate File 3451.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Boldon provided closing comments for Senate File 3451.

Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 3451, as amended, for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.

AGENDA ITEM #3: Senate File 3552 (BOLDON): Assertive community treatment provisions modifications

The third item on the agenda was Senate File 3451, authored by Senator Boldon as follows:

Senate File 3552 (Boldon): Assertive community treatment provisions modifications

Senator Boldon provided opening remarks and presented Senate File 3552 to the committee.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 3552:

- Ashley Kjos, CEO of Woodland Centers, testified in support of Senate File 3552.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Boldon provided closing comments on Senate File 3552.

Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 3552 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.

Chair Wiklund passed the gavel to Senator Mann who assumed the role of Chair.

AGENDA ITEM #4: Senate File XXXX (WIKLUND): Establishing Medical Assistance rate adjustments- Informational Only

The fourth item on the agenda was an informal presentation on Senate File XXXX, authored by Senator Wiklund as follows:

Senate File XXXX (Wiklund): Establishing Medical Assistance rate adjustments Informational Only

Senator Wiklund provided opening remarks and explained Senate File XXXX, to the committee.

The following individuals testified on Senate File XXXX:

- Jessica Brisbois, Manager of Acute Mental Health Services at Children's Hospital of Minnesota, testified in support of Senate File XXXX
- Margaret Vimont, Vice President of Growth and Community Services with Nexus Family Healing, testified in support of Senate File XXXX.
- Dr. Steve Sutherland, Division Chair of Psychiatry at Essentia, testified in support of Senate File XXXX.
- Anh Kramer, Chief Strategy and Development Officer with Nystrom and Associates, testified in support of Senate File XXXX.

Member questions and discussion followed.

AGENDA ITEM #5: Senate File 4837 (WIKLUND): Oversight of health maintenance organization transactions by the commissioner of health authorization; nonprofit health coverage entity conversion transactions requirements establishment

The fifth item on the agenda was Senate File 4837, authored by Senator Wiklund as follows:

Senate File 4837 (Wiklund): Oversight of health maintenance organization transactions by the commissioner of health authorization; nonprofit health coverage entity conversion transactions requirements establishment

Senator Wiklund provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 4837 to the committee.

Senator Wiklund moved the A1 Amendment.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 4837:

- Robert Haider, Legislative Director with TakeAction Minnesota, testified in support of Senate File 4837.
- Michale Johnson, former Health Policy Consultant with Blue Shield of California, testified in support of Senate File 4837.
- Dan Endreson, representing the Minnesota Council of Health Plans, testified in opposition to Senate File 4837

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Wiklund provided closing comments on Senate File 4837.

Senator Wiklund moved that Senate File 4837, as amended, be recommended to pass and be re-referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND SENATE FILE 4837, AS AMENDED, WAS PASSED AND RE-REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY.

AGENDA ITEM #6: Senate File 4778 (WIKLUND): MinnesotaCare public option establishment, MinnesotaCare eligibility and various other provisions, and appropriation

The sixth item on the agenda was Senate File 4778, authored by Senator Wiklund as follows:

Senate File 4778 (Wiklund): MinnesotaCare public option establishment, MinnesotaCare eligibility and various other provisions, and appropriation

Senator Wiklund provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 4778 to the committee.

Senator Wiklund moved the A1 Authors Amendment.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AUTHORS AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 4778:

- Hannah McMillin, representing Unidos Minnesota, testified in support of Senate File 4778.
- Megan Paul, representing Isaiah Minnesota, testified in support of Senate File 4778.
- Simone Blaylock. Representing SEIU Healthcare of Minnesota & Iowa, testified in support of Senate File 4778.
- Tessa Park, Owner of W.T. Farms and President of Rice County Farmers Union, testified in support of Senate File 4778.
- Dan Endreson, representing Minnesota Council of Health Plans, testified in opposition to Senate File 4778.
- Bentley Graves, representing Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, testified in opposition to Senate File 4778.
- Michelle Benson, representing Health Plan Partnership of Minnesota, testified in opposition to Senate File 4778.
- Ben Wagner, representing Medical Alley, testified in opposition to Senate File 4778.
- Abby Loesch, representing Minnesota Business Partnership, testified in opposition to Senate File 4778.
- Danny Ackert, Director of State Government Relation for the Minnesota Health Association, testified in opposition to Senate File 4778.
- RaeAnna Lee, Legislative Director for Americans for Prosperity, testified in opposition to Senate File 4778.
- Tom Wright, representing the Minnesota Association of Health Underwriters, testified in opposition to Senate File 4778.
- Peter Brickwedde, Assistant Commissioner with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, testified on Senate File 4778

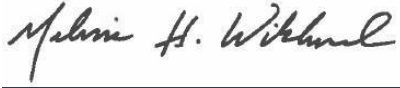
Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Wiklund provided closing comments on Senate File 4778.

Senator Wiklund moved that Senate File 4778, as amended, be recommended to pass and be re-referred to the committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND SENATE FILE 4778, AS AMENDED, WAS PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Chair Mann adjourned the meeting at 10:48am.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melissa H. Wiklund".

Senator Melissa H. Wiklund

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hailey Ryan".

Hailey Ryan, Legislative Assistant