

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Health & Human Services Committee  
Friday, March 15th, 2024  
9:00 am Livestream YouTube

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### Minutes

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

**Absent:** Senator Alice Mann – Vice Chair, Senator Bill Lieske

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Chair Wiklund called the meeting to order at 9:03 am on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Room 1100 of the Minnesota Senate Building. A quorum was present.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #1: Senate File 716 (CHAMPION): Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act**

The first item on the agenda was Senate File 716, authored by Senator Champion as follows:

**Senate File 716 (Champion):** Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act

Senator Hoffman moved the A1 Authors Amendment.

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

Senator Champion provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 716, as amended, to the committee.

#### **The following individuals testified on Senate File 716:**

- Kelis Houston, Executive Director of Village Arms and Chair of NAACP Child Protection Committee, testified in support of Senate File 716.
- Theodore Rose, Legislative and Policy Director for the Council for Minnesota of African Heritage, testified in support of Senate File 716.
- Latasha Bacon, mother of Layla Jackson, testified in support of Senate File 716.
- Declara Tripp, private citizen, testified in support of Senate File 716.
- Cynthia Wilson, President of the Minneapolis NAACP, testified in support of Senate File 716.
- Rhia Bornman Spears, Attorney with Spears Family Law, testified in support of Senate File 716.
- Cindy Devonish, Director of the DFL Feminist Caucus, testified in support of Senate File 716.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Champion provided closing comments for Senate File 716.

Senator Hoffman moved that Senate file 716 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 716, AS AMENDED, WAS PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY.**

#### **AGENDA ITEM #2: Senate File 4877 (MITCHELL): Department of Human services child fatalities or near fatalities panel and process provisions modifications**

The second item on the agenda was Senate File 4877, authored by Mitchell follows:

**Senate File 4877 (Mitchell):** Department of Human services child fatalities or near fatalities panel and process provisions modifications

Senator Morrison moved the A1 Authors Amendment.

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

Senator Mitchell provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 4877, as amended, to the committee.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Boldon moved that Senate File 4877, as amended, be recommended to pass and be referred to the committee on Judiciary and Public Safety.

**On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND SENATE FILE 4877, AS AMENDED, WAS PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY.**

**AGENDA ITEM #3: Senate File 4835 (SEEBERGER): Office of Emergency Medical Services replacement of the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board establishment**

The third item on the agenda was Senate File 4835, authored by Senator Seeberger as follows:

**Senate File 4835 (Seeberger):** Office of Emergency Medical Services replacement of the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board establishment

Senator Seeberger provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 4835 to the committee.

Senator Boldon moved the A3 Authors Amendment.

**On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A3 AUTHORS AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Senator Boldon moved the A1 Amendment.

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

**The following individuals testified on Senate File 4835:**

- Michale Juntunen, Incoming President of the Minnesota Ambulance Association, testified in opposition to Senate File 4835.
- John Fox, practicing paramedic with Dodge Center Ambulance, testified in opposition to Senate File 4835
- Dr. Marc Conterato, practicing emergency medical physician and medical director for Plymouth Public Safety, testified in opposition to Senate File 4835.
- Buck McAlpin, representing the Minnesota Ambulance Association and Minnesota Chapter of the Emergency Physician group, testified in opposition to Senate File 4835.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Seeberger provided closing comments on Senate File 4835.

Senator Morrison moves that Senate File 4835, as amended, be recommended to pass and be re-referred to the committee on State and Local Government and Veterans.

**On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND SENATE FILE 4835 WAS PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND VETERANS.**

**AGENDA ITEM #4: Senate File 4697 (SEEBERGER): Ambulance staffing requirements and emergency medical responder registration modification**

The fourth item on the agenda was Senate File 4697, authored by Senator Seeberger as follows:

**Senate File 4697 (Seeberger):** Ambulance staffing requirements and emergency medical responder registration modification

Senator Seeberger provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 4697 to the committee.

**The following individuals testified on Senate File 4697:**

○ Buck McAlpin, Minnesota Ambulance Association, testified in support of Senate File 4697.  
Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Seeberger provided closing comments for Senate File 4697.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 4967 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**AGENDA ITEM #5: Senate File 4010 (HOFFMAN): Funeral travel protection agreements to certain provisions exclusion provision**

The fifth item on the agenda was Senate File 4010, authored by Senator Hoffman as follows:

**Senate File 4010 (Hoffman):** Funeral travel protection agreements to certain provisions exclusion provision

Senator Hoffman provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 4010 to the committee.

**The following individuals testified on Senate File 4010:**

- Kathy Lehman-Caho, licenser funeral director with Dignity Memorial, testified in support of Senate File 4010.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Hoffman provided closing comments on Senate File 4010.

Senator Hoffman moved that Senate File 4010 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 4010, WAS PASSED AND RE- REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION.**

**AGENDA ITEM #6: Senate File 4330 (HOFFMAN): Definition modification of usual and customary price for the purposes of medical assistance prescription drug reimbursement**

The sixth item on the agenda was Senate File 4330, authored by Senator Hoffman as follows:

**Senate File 4330 (Hoffman):** Definition modification of usual and customary price for the purposes of medical assistance prescription drug reimbursement

Senator Hoffman provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 4330 to the committee.

**The following individuals testified on Senate File 4330:**

- Pat Twohy, representing Amazon Pharmacy, testified in support of Senate File 4330.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Hoffman provided closing comments on Senate File 4330.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 4330 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

Senator Wiklund moved to reconsider the previous motion on Senate File 4010.

**On a voice vote, THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER THE PREVIOUS MOTION ON 4010 PREVAILED.**

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 4010 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**Chair Wiklund recessed the committee at 11:07am**

**Chair Wiklund reconvened the committee at 11:24am**

**AGENDA ITEM #7: Senate File 4074 (MCEWEN): Groundwater thermal exchange devices permits changes provisions**

The seventh item on the agenda was Senate File 4074 authored by Senator McEwen as follows:

**Senate File 4074 (McEwen):** Groundwater thermal exchange devices permits changes provisions

Senator McEwen provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 4074 to the committee.

**The following individuals testified on Senate File 4074:**

- Michael Auger, Senior Vice President and Chief Business Officer with District Energy St. Paul & Ever-Green Energy, testified in support of Senate File 4074.
- Jack Rol, Facility Project Manager with Mayo Clinic, testified in support of Senate File 4074.
- Bruce Kleven, representing the Minnesota Water Well Association, testified on Senate File 4074.
- Tom Hogan, Environmental Health Division Director with the Minnesota Department of Health, testified on Senate File 4074.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Hoffman moved the A3 Amendment.

Member questions and discussion on the A3 Amendment followed.

**Senator Hoffman withdrew the A3 Amendment.**

Senator Hoffman moved the A4 Amendment.

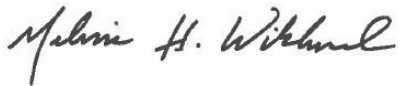
Member questions and discussion on the A4 Amendment followed.

**Senator Hoffman withdrew the A4 Amendment.**

Senator McEwen provided closing comments on Senate File 4074.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 4074 for possible inclusion in an omnibus bill.**

**Chair Wiklund adjourned the meeting at 11:52 am.**



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Senator Melissa H. Wiklund



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Hailey Ryan, Legislative Assistant