

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Health & Human Services Committee
Tuesday, February 25th, 2025
8:30 am Livestream YouTube

Minutes

Present: Senator Melissa H. Wiklund – Chair, Senator Alice Mann – Vice Chair, Senator Paul Utke – Minority Lead, Senator Jim Abeler, Senator Mark Koran, Senator Rob Kupec, Senator Bill Lieske, Senator Lindsey Port

Absent: Senator John Hoffman, Senator Liz Boldon

Chair Wiklund called the meeting to order at 8:32 am on Tuesday, February 25th, 2025, in Room 1100 of the Minnesota Senate Building. A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: Senate File 509 (Mann): Health licensing requirements modifications

The first item on the agenda was Senate File 509, authored by Senator Mann as follows:

Senate File 509 (Mann): Health licensing requirements modifications

Senator Mann moved the A2 Amendment.

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

Senator Mann provided opening remarks and explained Senate File 509, as amended, to the committee.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 509:

- Azar Maluki, foreign trained physician from Iraq and participant in the University of Minnesota Medical School IMG BRIIDGE program, testified in support of Senate File 509.
- Mike Zimmer, Senior Policy Consultant with World Education Services, testified in support of Senate File 509.
- Dr. Nataliya Danylkova, MD, ophthalmologist and foreign-trained physician from Ukraine, testified in support of Senate File 509.
- Dr. Erik Van Kuijk, MD, former Head of Ophthalmology & Visual Neuroscience at the University of Minnesota Medical School and International Medical Graduate, testified in support of Senate File 509.
- Dr. Alexandra Tsvilina, MD, family medicine physician and foreign trained physician from Uzbekistan and Germany, testified in support of Senate File 509.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Mann moved that Senate File 509, as amended, be recommended to pass and be re-referred to the Committee on State and Local Government.

On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND SENATE FILE 509, AS AMENDED, WAS PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

AGENDA ITEM #2: Senate File 1144 (Maye-Quade): Optometrists limitations on prescribing and administering drugs provisions modifications

The second item on the agenda was Senate File 1144, authored by Senator Maye-Quade as follows:

Senate File 1144 (Maye-Quade): Optometrists limitations on prescribing and administering drugs provisions modifications

Senator Maye-Quade gave opening remarks and provided a presentation on Senate File 1144 to the committee.

The following individuals testified on Senate File 1144:


- Dr. Randy Kempfer, practicing optometrist and past president of the Minnesota Optometric Association, testified in support of Senate File 1144.
- Dr. Lauren Haverly, practicing optometrist and past president of the Minnesota Optometric Association, testified in support of Senate File 1144.
- Dr. Tina McCarty, practicing optometrist and public policy and planning committee chair for the Minnesota State Board of Optometry testified in support of Senate File 1144.
- Dr. Amy Maltry, practicing Ophthalmologist and President of Minnesota Academy of Eye Physician and Surgeons, testified in opposition to Senate File 1144.
- Dr. Meghan Brown, senior ophthalmology resident at the University of Minnesota Medical School Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences, testified in opposition of Senate File 1144.
- Dr. Erik van Kuijk, MD, Former Head of Ophthalmology & Visual Neuroscience at the University of Minnesota Medical School, testified in opposition of Senate File 1144.
- Professor Akshay Rao, private citizen, testified on Senate File 1144.
- Dr. Michelle Atchinson, MD, practicing ophthalmologist and owner of Eye Consultants of North Dakota, testified in opposition to Senate File 1144.
- Dr. Andrew R. Harrison, MD, professor of ophthalmology and director of ophthalmic plastic and reconstructive surgery fellowship at the University of Minnesota Medical School, testified in opposition to Senate File 1144.

Committee members' questions and discussion followed.

Senator Maye-Quade provided closing comments on Senate File 1144.

Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 1144.

Chair Wiklund adjourned the meeting at 10:13am.



Senator Melissa H. Wiklund



Hailey Ryan, Legislative Assistant

