

Approved _____

Date

2-15-8

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE

The meeting was called to order by Marvin L. Littlejohn at
Chairperson

1:30 ///a.m./p.m. on February 8, 1988 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Research
Sue Hill, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Nadine Belk, Health Service Administrator/Dept. of Corrections.

Chair called meeting to order, noting revised agenda.

Chair introduced Ms. Nadine Belk, Health Service Administrator/Dept. Corrections. Ms. Belk spoke to committee in regard to AIDS testing in the state Corrections Institutions. HIV testing has been done since 1986 she said. Out of 500 people, 17 have tested positive. She gave the steps of procedure on a person entering their system. Their data indicates persons entering the systems in the last two years are those testing positive. Of those coming into the system with an advance case of the disease 2 have died, one still living. Once they receive a person with advance symptoms, they generally don't live longer than 2 years, so statistics you read about are definitely true. Our records indicate we are doubling cases each year. Those records indicate also those convicted of Burglary and Theft are those coming into the System. The problem of those as carriers of the Virus is an ethnic problem. She stated the only way we can contain the AIDS virus is to educate. Many in the system do not know that much about the dangers, and to teach them will help to reduce their risk and that of others in the system. Voluntary testing is offered to all those incarcerated, and they have had no one refuse the testing. She answered numerous questions, i.e., yes, if a person is tested positive they are placed in a single cell, or with another positive tested person; yes, we do have protective custody; yes, upon being admitted, certain routine blood testing is done, and if tested positive for the AIDS virus, they are counseled.

Briefing began on HB 2715:

Ms. Correll gave a comprehensive section by section briefing on HB 2715, noting that local registrar is deleted and state registrar inserted in lieu thereof throughout the bill. She noted legislation of this type was earlier considered, however, there were strong concerns since it was part of a large revision of the Uniform Vital Statistics Act, which revision contained a number of rather controversial provisions. One of those concerns was with confidentiality. She answered questions, i.e., in case of persons wanting certificates of death because of Insurance purposes, this can only be given out at the state level, yes, this information is transmitted by pen and paper, not electronically; local registrars are only allowed to maintain a register that gives the place of birth and names of parents of a newborn; no, this is not considered a birth certificate.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE,
room 423-S Statehouse, at 1:30 a.m./p.m. on February 8, 1988

Briefing began on HB 2717:

Ms. Correll explained HB 2717 section by section, stating the changes that appear in the bill enacted just last year. Need to further list where smoking is prohibited is shown in lines 26 through 29. She noted language might need to be more precise in definition on "waiting lines". This would help eliminate phone calls, if this legislation is enacted. She answered numerous questions, i.e., yes, legislative intent is evident; yes, the Attorney General's Aide who gave out the AG's opinion did have access to the committee minutes when working on the decision. It was noted by a committee member at this point, the AG's opinion is just that, an opinion, and all would need to remember that. It is not law. Further questions, i.e., waiting areas are difficult to define, such as bank lobbys, Capitol Building hallways, and others. Ms. Correll stated she would check statutes in regard to just how "public place" is defined in statutes.

Briefing on HB 2759:--

Ms. Correll gave history of HB 2759, then explained it section by section. She noted there was concern about what is the "Advisory Commission". She suggested committee might wish to keep language consistend within the bill, i.e., references to "registering" indicated in Section 1 are inconsistent with language in Section 2 in regard to "registering". She noted technical changes due to inappropriate dates. There was discussion following her comments.

Chair thanked Ms. Correll for the comprehensive briefing this date.

Chair announced there is no meeting scheduled for Tuesday. However, there is a heavy agenda for Wednesday, February 10, 1988.

Meeting adjourned 2:30 p.m.

