



State of Nevada
Board of Environmental Health Specialists

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MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

November 7, 2024

Members Present: Brian Northam, Amber English, James Barnes, Drew Skeen, Teresa Hayes
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Loretta Ponton, Executive Director
Joseph Ostunio, Esq., Deputy Attorney General
Public Present: Darren Winkelman, REHS, Central Nevada Health District

Pursuant to the requirements of AB 219, Ms. Ponton stated the procedure for public comments by telephone or through remote access.

Brian Northam, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. A voice roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comment: There were no comments.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ponton provided an update on meetings with Director Sanchez and Deputy Director Nikki Haag regarding proposed BDR 301 to move administration of Occupational and Professional Boards to the Office of Boards, Commissions and Council Standards under the Department of Business and Industry; and create new structure for regulatory Boards by grouping several professions together into a new Board with members representing each of the professions.

Ms. Ponton reported that Brian Northam and she met with the Director and Deputy Director on November 1st to address concerns specific to the Environmental Health Board being merged with the 3 other professional boards with only one EHS representative on the newly formed regulatory Board. Chair Northam stated concerns with grouping "business and industry" for profit professions with environmental health specialists whose purpose is "public health".

The Director stated the EHS Board will not be considered as a stand-alone Board; however, the concerns of representation would be considered.

A proposal to increase representation to 4 EHS positions was submitted with a response that 3 positions would be approved with new qualifications designating county residency without reference to the health districts. After further consideration, the Director and Deputy Director agreed to retain the current qualifications of the Chief Medical officer or designee and REHS positions employed by the SNHD and NNPH for a total of 3 board positions appointed by the Governor.

Department of Business and Industry – BDR 301 – proposed merger

Chair Northam opened the floor for discussion.

Chair Northam again stated his concerns with grouping “business and industry” for profit entities with the EHS Board whose purpose is “public health”.

Amber English asked if there would be opportunities for additional comments. Ms. Ponton provided an overview of the legislative process and opportunities to provide comments at Legislative Committee Meetings.

Teresa Hayes stated the process will also require comments from state agencies and include the opportunity for the counties to comment as well.

Ms. Ponton stated when the Bill is released, it will need to be reviewed in detail as to the impact on this Board; it is expected to be over 3,000 pages and cover numerous NRS statutes which will be affected by the massive reorganization initiative.

Chair Northam stated more information should be available for the January meeting.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Adjournment: Chair Northam adjourned the meeting 11:26 a.m.