

DRAFT Minutes

Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee

February 24, 2020

Members Present

Senator Brent Jackson, Chair	Representative Craig Horn, Chair
Senator Rob Bryan	Representative John Fraley
Senator Kirk DeViere	Representative Julia Howard
Senator Don Davis	Representative Pat Hurley
Senator Chuck Edwards	Representative Marvin Lucas
Senator Carl Ford	
Senator Paul Newton	
Senator Andy Wells	

Senator Brent Jackson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Senator Newton moved to approve the January 13, 2019 Minutes. Motion passed.

Chairman Jackson recognized Kiernan McGorty, Committee Counsel, to present the timeline of legislatively required actions taken by the Department of Public Safety (DPS), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and UNC Health Care in response to three inmate healthcare bills (H1108 in 2018 and H106 and H108 in 2019).

Chairman Jackson recognized Terri Catlett, DPS, to respond to the status of implementation. Ms. Catlett reported progress on several of the required actions.

Chairman Jackson recognized Lanier Hodgson, UNC Health Care, to respond to the status of implementation of the 340B partnership with DPS. Ms. Hodgson said UNC before it can begin the partnership is waiting on DPS to complete tasks.

Chairman Jackson recognized Amanda Fuller-Moore, DHHS, to respond to the status of implementation of the 340B partnership with DPS. Ms. Fuller-Moore said the 340B process is very detailed and complicated.

Several members of the committee noted and criticized delays in implementing State law requiring reform of DPS inmate health care.

Senator Wells asked PED staff for the estimated annual savings from implementing the 340B partnership. PED evaluator Brent Lucas responded that the estimate is in the \$8 million to \$8.5 million recurring range.

Senator Wells referred to the \$8.5 million in cost savings per year and asked why it would take 5 years to implement the plan to recoup these costs.

Terri Catlett, DPS, said that the partnership with DHHS should be up and running by December 2020.

Senator Wells asked PED staff about the discrepancy between five years and the December date.

PED evaluator Brent Lucas responded that in the far-right column on the handout relating to the DHHS and DPS partnership, his understanding is that year 2024 states when the entire provision would be implemented.

Chairman Horn spoke to the implementation delays, suggesting that DPS should have done more legwork before the participation application came through on January 1st. Chairman Horn stated that DPS has given many reasons things have not moved ahead and observed there has been discussion and debate for months.

Chairman Jackson said that he and Chairman Horn would issue an invitation to the heads of the three agencies involved to appear at the next committee meeting to provide updates on the status of implementation.

Chairman Jackson recognized Jim Horne, Principal Program Evaluator, to present the report Opportunities Exist to Further Ease Burdens on Military-Trained Applicants and Military Spouses in Obtaining Occupational Licensure. Session Law 2019-201 directed PED to do the evaluation. Military veterans and their spouses face unique challenges in getting occupational licensure. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93B-15.1 should have eased these burdens. Use of the statute has increased since implementation, yet opportunities exist to further assist members of the military community as they transition to civilian life or undertake relocation. Specifically, North Carolina could begin providing expedited licensure for military spouses and boards could better disseminate information on military licensure provisions. Other potential legislative actions include directing licensing boards to collect and report information on military-trained applicants and military spouse applicants.

Kory Goldsmith presented the bill draft that would implement the report's recommendations. Senator Wells commented on stories he had heard regarding delays for licensure and asked if the 30-day turnaround was too long. Representative Fraley asked why the bill would not include spouses of veterans. Senator Don Davis asked if boards are tracking the timing of applications. He also asked if any information on efficiency of the boards was being sent to the Veteran Affairs office. Senator DeViere questioned if the licensing boards should waive applicable fees and complained about the long appeals process and said that the proposed bill should address both issues. Chairman Jackson announced the bill draft would be voted on at the next meeting in March.

With no further business, the committee adjourned.

Senate Chair, Senator Brent Jackson

House Chair, Representative Craig Horn