

**MINUTES OF THE
HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES STANDING COMMITTEE
Room 25, House Office Building
February 9, 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Paul Ray, Chair
 Rep. Evan J. Vickers, Vice Chair
 Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck
 Rep. Bradley M. Daw
 Rep. Daniel McCay
 Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
 Rep. Dean Sanpei
 Rep. Christine F. Watkins

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove

STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
 Ms. RuthAnne Frost, Associate General Counsel
 Ms. Linda Black, House Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and copy of handouts are filed with committee minutes.

Chair Ray called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Chavez-Houck moved to approve the minutes of February 8, 2012. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Menlove, Rep. Sanpei, and Rep. Vickers absent for the vote.

H.B. 319 **Provision of Information to Parents of Children in State Custody** (*Rep. C. Watkins*)

Rep. Watkins presented the bill to the committee.

Spoke in favor of the bill: Ms. Sharon Burgess
 Mr. Dan Duell, American Action Parental League
 Ms. Charri Brummer, Assistant Director, Division of Child and Family Services (Department of Human Services)

MOTION: Rep. McCay moved to pass the bill out favorably. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Vickers absent for the vote.

H.B. 308 **Parental Rights of Biological Fathers** (*Rep. C. Watkins*)

Rep. Watkins presented the bill to the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Watkins moved to replace H.B. 308 with 1st Substitute H.B. 308. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Vickers absent for the vote.

Spoke in favor of the bill: Ms. Jennifer Graham
Mr. Dan Duell, American Action Parental League

Spoke in opposition to the bill: Mr. David Hardy, attorney, Utah Adoption Council (handout)
Mr. Stan Rasmussen, Sutherland Institute
Ms. Donna Pope, Heart to Heart Adoptions

Spoke to the bill: Ms. Janice Houston, Utah Office of Vital Statistics, Utah Department of Health
Ms. Lisa Harris
Natalie (no surname given)

MOTION: Rep. McCay moved to hold the bill, as substituted. The motion passed with Rep. Chavez-Houck, Rep. Ray, and Rep. Watkins voting in opposition.

H.B. 232 Abuse, Neglect, and Division Definitions (*Rep. C. Watkins*)

Rep. Watkins presented the bill to the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Watkins moved to amend the bill as follows:

1. *Page 1, Lines 8 through 15:*

8 General Description:

9 This bill { ~~modifies the definition of neglect and~~ eliminates a
responsibility of the

10 Division of Child and Family Services.

11 Highlighted Provisions:

12 This bill:

13 { ~~-adds willful, wanton, and reckless negligence to the definition of
neglect; and~~ }

14 ▶ eliminates the division's responsibility to conduct court-ordered home
evaluations in

15 custody proceedings.

2. *Page 7, Lines 191 through 194:*

191 (25) (a) "Neglect" means action or inaction { ~~that is willful, wanton, or reckless~~ }

- 192 ~~negligence,~~} causing:
193 (i) abandonment of a child, except as provided in Title 62A, Chapter 4a, Part 8, Safe
194 Relinquishment of a Newborn Child;

The motion passed unanimously.

Spoke in favor of the bill: Mr. Stan Rasmussen, Sutherland Institute
Spoke to the bill: Ms. Charri Brummer, Assistant Director, Division of Child and
Family Services (Department of Human Services)

MOTION: Rep. Daw moved to pass the bill out favorably as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Rep. Daw moved to place H.B. 232 on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Rep. Menlove moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Rep. Ray adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Rep. Paul Ray, Chair