

Good Morning, Chairman Lee, and esteemed members of the Senate Human Service Committee.

For the record, I am Representative Bill Devlin, of District 23 and I live in Finley.

I am here to introduce HB 1418, which will change the present requirements for the qualification for the State Health Officer to be a physician with public health experience. The bill before you, removes the language that says the person must have demonstrated experience in the management of people. I have learned as I worked through this process that physicians don't always provide the management of the staff in their own practice and hire others to do that. I understand that would be the same in the state position, so I did not want to limit a qualified person from being appointed because they have a partner or another person in the office who did the actual management of the people in their practice.

It was originally my intent to remove the advisory committee because you don't need that committee when you have the doctor in the position. However, House Human Services, felt there may be a need to be able to utilize the advisory committee when the Health Officer is temporarily appointed. Keep in mind that the advisory committee is different than the Health Council, which remains in place no matter what qualifications the person holding the Health Officer's position holds.

I have always firmly believed firmly the Public Health Officer should always be a medical doctor with certain other qualifications and have led that effort at other times in my years of legislative service. That is the intent of this bill and I believe is a necessary step for the citizens of our state.

Chairman Lee and members of the committee that is HB 1418. I would be happy to try answer any questions but there may be others present with more expertise.

Thank you!