



# DISABILITY AND COMMUNICATION ACCESS BOARD

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## MINUTES Legislative Committee Meeting

Location: 1010 Richards Street, Room 118 and via Zoom  
Date: March 18, 2024  
Time: 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Violet Horvath, Chairperson; Summer Kozai, Charlotte Townsend, Committee Members; Bryan Mick, Kirby Shaw, Staff

ABSENT: Anthony Akamine, Rosanna Daniel-Kanetake, Committee Members

- I. Chairperson Violet Horvath called the meeting to order at 2:13 p.m.
- II. The attendees introduced themselves with Committee members Violet Horvath, Summer Kozai, and Charlotte Townsend present.

III. Statement from Public and Written Testimonies Submitted

Bryan Mick reported no testimony was received.

IV. Approval of Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2024.

The February 23, 2024, Legislative Committee meeting minutes were approved as circulated (M/S/P Townsend/Kozai).

V. New Bills, Resolutions, and Certain Bills Previously Considered

HB 1774 HD2 / SB 2305 SD2 – Relating to Missing Persons. Establishes a silver alert program within the Department of Law Enforcement to help locate and safeguard missing persons who are sixty-five years of age or older, cognitively impaired, or developmentally disabled.

As the bills appear to have no opposition, no action was taken.

HB 2446 HD2 / SB 3135 SD1 - Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Authorizes the Examiner of Drivers to suspend the driver's license of a person who violates certain regulations relating to the use of disability parking permits. Authorizes each county to enact ordinances to enforce the design and construction requirements for the provision of accessible parking spaces, including the establishment of penalties for failure to comply with the ordinances. SB 3135 SD1 also remits 50 percent of fines to issuing agency.

Staff noted that HB 2446 HD2 had the 50 percent remittance provision deleted. Staff intends to ask the Senate to restore it. No action was taken.

HCR 59 – Urging the City and County of Honolulu to Work with the Honolulu Department of Transportation Services and the Honolulu Police Department to Increase Enforcement Efforts Against Illegal Electric Bicycles and Dirt Bike Motorcycles to Make Sidewalks and Public Roadways Safer.

The Committee urged staff to interface directly with the counties and took no action on HCR 59.

HCR 91 / HR 75 – Requesting the Department of Human Services to Establish a Working Group to Address Issues relating to Reimbursement and Payments to Home and Community-based Services Providers.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Townsend/Horvath)

HCR 94 / HR 78 – Requesting the Department of Human Services to Study the Feasibility of Increasing the Medicaid Reimbursement Payment Rate for Hawaii's Community Care Foster Family Homes and Expanded Adult Residential Care Homes for Medicaid Clients.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Townsend/Horvath)

HCR 101 / HR 82 – Requesting a Study of the Necessity for Hawaii's Certificate of Need Program under Chapter 323D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

**MOTION: SUPPORT** (M/S/P Horvath/Townsend)

HR 22 / HCR 33 – Urging the Governor and Pertinent State Agencies to Commit to Provide Culturally Appropriate Resources, Services, and Programs, for Native Hawaiian Individuals and Families Experiencing Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.

The Committee did not feel that the resolution was clear enough to take a position on.

**MOTION: MONITOR** (M/S/P Townsend/Horvath)

SB 849 SD2 – Relating to Social Services. Amends the state supplemental payment ceiling for domiciliary care paid to recipients who are eligible for federal supplementary security income or public assistance, or both. Amends the monthly needs allowance for individuals residing in foster homes, care homes, domiciliary homes, and other long-term care facilities.

Staff noted the Committee voted to monitor this last year but this year supported the intent of HB 2216 HD2 which is very similar. For consistency, staff is recommending the Committee support the intent of SB 849 SD2.

**MOTION: SUPPORT INTENT** (M/S/P Horvath/Townsend)

SB 2503 SD2 – Relating to Equity. Requires all places of public accommodation and state building constructions constructed after 12/31/24 to provide universal changing accommodations that are equally accessible regardless of gender. Requires state building construction projects that are bid after 6/30/2025 to include universal

changing accommodations that are equally accessible regardless of gender, when doing so is feasible and cost effective.

Staff notes that the original bill has a very well defined hardship exception. The second exception was added at the request of the Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS). Staff thinks that the provision is too vague and will result in disagreement over future projects. It also seems too broad since DAGS concern was projects already in post design, but this exception would apply to all projects bid after 6/30/2025, which means projects that aren't even in the conceptual phase might try and claim it covers them. Committee member Charlotte Townsend mentioned that in smaller bathrooms or those with narrow passageways, the tables can become a barrier. She pondered how utilized these tables would be in all government buildings as opposed to transportation facilities where they are more likely needed. Chairperson Violet Horvath mentioned that privacy would be a concern when using one of these tables to change someone. Bryan Mick replied the bill says that when a family restroom is provided, that's where the adult table should go. But if there are only male and female bathrooms than each one must have a table.

**MOTION: SUPPORT INTENT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)**

SCR 44 / HCR 170 – Urging the Department of Education to Ensure that Each Public School and Public Charter School in the State, from Kindergarten through Grade Twelve has a Certain Number of Mental Health Professionals.

Committee member Charlotte Townsend pointed out there is a bill that seeks to loosen the qualifications to serve as a school mental health professional. Staff replied the bill includes social workers in that definition. Chairperson Violet Horvath added there are not enough of those to go around either. Staff suggested the Committee support the intent of the bill, but add comments that other measures are needed to increase the number of mental health professionals in the state.

**MOTION: SUPPORT INTENT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)**

SCR 90 – Requesting the Auditor to assess both the social and financial effects of proposed mandated health insurance coverage for a percentage of the costs of ketamine therapy to treat depression and suicide ideation.

Staff mentioned the Committee had supported a bill that would allow psilocybin to be offered as a treatment option for certain mental health conditions. At the time it was commented there are other substances like ketamine that also show potential as a treatment option. Before the State can legally require insurance policies to cover something new, an Auditor study is required.

**MOTION: SUPPORT (M/S/P Horvath/Kozai)**

VI. Update on Bills Still Under Consideration:

A. Parking

HB 2447 HD1 – Relating to Parking for Disabled Persons. Establishes a disability travel placard to be issued to an existing permittee for use at the travel destination. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 370 SD1 – Relating to Electric Vehicle Charging Systems. Removes the exemption that allowed owners of multiple parking facilities within the State to designate and electrify fewer parking spaces than required in one or more of the properties if the requirement for the total number of aggregate spaces on all of their owned properties was met. **(COMMENT)**

B. Non-Discrimination

HB 1976 HD1 – Relating to the Office of Elections. Appropriates funds to the Office of Elections Statewide Elections Accessibility Needs Advisory Committee to provide voter education and outreach services for individuals with accessibility needs. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1977 HD1 - Relating to Braille Literacy. Establishes state policy to promote braille literacy for blind students. Requires the individualized education programs of blind students to include the instruction of Braille and provision of Braille instructional materials under certain circumstances. Requires the Department of Education to establish a Braille Literacy Resource Center. **(SUPPORT INTENT)**

Staff commented that this bill has had contentious hearings. The Department is sometimes reluctant to provide Braille training to students who want it, as the Department feels there are other methods of reading that the student should use. However, this can be an issue if after graduation the former student's eyesight deteriorates to the point where Braille is the best option. It is much more difficult to learn it as an adult.

Committee member Charlotte Townsend mentioned that years ago the Capitol installed Braille signs on all the doors, but they installed the signs upside down. Staff replied there are several accessibility issues that have cropped up with the Capitol and its website recently, and DCAB will do outreach post session to see if they can be addressed.

HB 1773 HD1 – Relating to Dementia. Requires the law enforcement standards board to develop training materials related to the recognition and signs of Alzheimer's disease and related types of dementia. Requires law enforcement officers to review training materials for at least 1 hour per year. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1812 HD2 – Relating to Corrections. Restricts the use of solitary confinement in state-operated and state-contracted correctional facilities, with certain specified exceptions. Prohibits the use of solitary confinement and requires the use of appropriate alternatives for committed persons who are members of a vulnerable population. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1941 HD1 / SB 2467 SD1 – Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Health to Implement Quality Improvement Recommendations for the Hawai'i State Hospital. Makes an emergency appropriation to provide

funds for the Department of Health to implement quality improvement recommendations at the Hawai'i State Hospital. **(SUPPORT)**

C. Communication Access

HB 2107 HD2 / SB 2781 SD1 – Related to Disaster Services. Appropriates funds to establish the position of Limited English Proficiency Language Coordinator within the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency. **(COMMENT)**

SB 3048 SD1 – Relating to Hawaii Broadband and Digital Equity Office. Establishes the Digital Equity Grant Program to award grants to applicants to deploy digital equity projects to covered populations in the State. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 3290 SD2 – Relating to American Sign Language. Requires the Disability and Communication Access Board to convene a working group to study the state of American Sign Language in Hawaii. Requires the Department of Health to assist the working group in the preparation of a report to submit to the Legislature. **(SUPPORT)**

SCR 4 / SR 4 – Requesting the Hawai'i State Public Library System to Establish a Hawai'i Deaf Culture Digital Library for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community. **(SUPPORT)**

SCR 5 / SR 5 - Urging the Prompt Implementation of the Hawai'i Electronic Information Technology Act on or Before December 31, 2024. **(SUPPORT)**

D. Service and Other Animals

HB 1580 HD1 – Relating to Animal Cruelty. Amends the penalty for causing injury or death to a service animal from a felony Class C to a Class B, and for intentional interference with the use of a service animal from a misdemeanor to a felony Class C. **(SUPPORT)**

E. Building Code, Design, and Facility Access

HB 1631 HD1 – Relating to Housing. Requires the school facilities authority to work with the Department of Education to prioritize projects for the construction of educator workforce housing that will house teachers and other staff of the Department. **(COMMENT)**

HB 1988 HD1 – Relating to County Housing Powers. Expands the housing powers of the counties to include the planning, development, construction, financing, and providing of housing projects, including low- and moderate-income housing and mixed-use developments. **(COMMENT)**

HB 2089 HD2 – Relating to the State Building Code. Requires that the adoption, amendment, or update of a building code or standard by the State Building Code Council be within two years of every other official publication date of a code or standard. **(MONITOR)**

HB 2090 HD1 / SB 2948 SD2 – Relating to Housing. Allows residential uses in areas zoned for commercial to be considered permitted as long as the residential use is limited by ordinance to floors above the ground floor of a building or structure and development standards are met, but exempts areas zoned under chapter 206E, HRS, relating to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority. Requires each county to adopt ordinances that allow for adaptive reuse of existing commercial buildings in the county's building codes. **(COMMENT)**

HB 2214 HD1 – Relating to Housing. Provides a new source of interim financing for affordable housing projects using housing programs under chapter 201H, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. **(COMMENT)**

HB 2328 HD2 - Relating to Affordable Housing. Appropriates moneys to the Hawai'i Public Housing Authority to acquire and renovate parcels and buildings located between Bethel Street, Pauahi Street, Fort Street, and Chaplain Lane for affordable housing purposes. **(COMMENT)**

HB 2364 HD2 - Relating to the Conveyance Tax. Allocates ten percent of conveyance tax collections to the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund for the purpose of funding infrastructure programs in transit-oriented development areas. **(COMMENT)**

SB 2337 SD2 – Relating to Housing. Expands the counties' authorization to exercise the same powers as the Hawai'i housing finance and development corporation for purposes of developing, constructing, financing, refinancing, or providing mixed-income projects and mixed-use developments. **(COMMENT)**

SB 2836 SD2 – Relating to Maui's Permanent Housing Recovery. Establishes within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism the Interagency Council for Maui Housing Recovery to coordinate and facilitate Maui's permanent housing recovery and facilitate consultation and collaboration between state and county agencies on housing recovery initiatives for the island of Maui. **(COMMENT)**

F. Community Based Services and Employment

HB 1675 HD1- Relating to the General Excise Tax. Beginning 1/1/2025, exempts medical services provided by physicians and advanced practice registered nurses acting in the capacity of a primary care provider from the general excise tax. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1769 HD2– Relating to Taxation. Establishes a refundable tax credit for nonpaid family caregivers. Requires the Department of Taxation to report to the Legislature before the convening of each Regular Session. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1772 HD1– Relating to Fall Prevention. Appropriates funds to support the Department of Health's Senior Fall Prevention Campaign. **(SUPPORT)**



HB 1776 HD2– Relating to the Household and Dependent Care Services Tax Credit. Increases a taxpayer's applicable percentage of employment-related expenses that may be claimed for the household and dependent care services tax credit for five years. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1777 HD1 / SB 2476 – Relating to Dental Hygienists. Authorizes dental hygienists who are under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist to perform preventive dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on certain individuals in a school-based oral health program. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1825 HD1 / SB 2119 – Relating to Out of State Prescriptions. Authorizes out-of-state pharmacists to transfer prescription information for the initial fill of a prescription for medical oxygen. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1827 HD2 – Relating to Healthcare Workforce Development. Appropriates moneys to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Education to support healthcare workforce development programs, specifically the public high school healthcare workforce certificate program and glidepath program for certified nurse aides. Requires these appropriations to be matched using a state-to-private-funds ratio of 3:1. Appropriates moneys to renovate and equip certain public high school classrooms to be used for healthcare training. **(MONITOR)**

HB 1830 HD2 - Relating to Mental Health. Establishes provisional or associate-level licensure requirements for marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, and psychologists and authorizes insurance reimbursements in certain circumstances. Allows psychologist license applicants to sit for the licensing examination before completing certain other requirements. Allows the Board of Psychology to grant licensure waivers in certain circumstances for psychologists. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1831 HD1 – Relating to Crisis Intervention. Establishes the behavioral health crisis center pilot program. Appropriates funds for the pilot program. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1836 HD2 – Relating to Health. Allows pharmacists, during declared states of emergency, to refill prescriptions of up to thirty-day supplies of dangerous drugs and dangerous devices if the prescriber is unavailable or cannot be contacted to authorize the refill and if, in the pharmacist's professional judgment, failure to refill the prescription might interrupt the patient's ongoing care and have a significant adverse effect on the patient's well-being. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1889 HD1 – Relating to Workers Compensation Medical Benefits. Expands workers' compensation medical benefits for firefighters to include coverage for breast cancer and cancer of the female reproductive organs. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1906 HD1 – Relating to Making an Appropriation for the Department of Education to Promote Student Mental Health. Appropriates moneys for the Department of Education to enhance the Panorama platform and Trust Circle mobile app. **(MONITOR)**

HB 1944 HD2 – Relating to Workers Compensation. Authorizes certain types of radiographical coverage and specialist consultations without a treatment plan within the context of workers' compensation coverage for employees with cervical and lumbar spinal injuries, or suspected cervical and lumbar spinal injuries. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1974 HD1 – Relating to Social Services. Increases the monthly needs allowance from \$50 to \$75. Clarifies that the needs allowance is not intended to replace or affect funds received from the federal supplemental security income program. Requires certain long-term care facility operators to pay for generic toiletries, linens, and meals and snacks. **(SUPPORT INTENT)**

HB 2042 HD1 – Relating to Mental Health. Appropriates funds to address the mental health and wellness needs of youth in the State. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 2159 HD2 – Relating to Mental Health. Requires the Department of the Attorney General to assist with the preparation and filing of petitions for assisted community treatment and with the presentation of the case, unless declined by the petitioner. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 2215 HD1 – Related to Medicaid. Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to achieve the full funding, including estimated payment increases, of Medicaid home- and community-based services. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 2216 HD2 – Related to Care Homes. Beginning on 7/1/2024, requires that the state supplemental payment for type 1 adult residential care homes, licensed developmental disabilities domiciliary homes, community care foster family homes, and certified adult foster homes not exceed \$1,136. Beginning on 7/1/2024, requires that the state supplemental payment for type II adult residential care homes not exceed \$1,334. **(SUPPORT INTENT)**

HB 2217 HD1 – Relating to Health. Requires the Departments of Health, Human Services, and Education to research and make recommendations on any rules, policies, and amendments to the Medicaid State Plan or Medicaid 1915(c) Waiver that are necessary to ensure provision of clinically appropriate treatments and services for individuals twenty-six years of age or younger with autism spectrum disorder or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder are covered under certain Medicaid programs. **(SUPPORT INTENT)**

HB 2393 HD1 – Relating to Title 24, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. Requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to cover mandated services for mammography at least as favorably as coverage for other radiological examinations. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 2415 HD2 / SB 2492 SD2 – Relating to the Nurse Licensure Compact. Adopts the nurse licensure compact. Beginning 01/01/2026, requires nurses who hold multistate licenses issued by a state other than Hawai'i to complete demographic data surveys. Authorizes the Board of Nursing to assess different fees for registered nurses and licensed practical nurses who hold a multistate license issued by the State. **(SUPPORT)**



HB 2451 HD3 – Relating to Mental Health. Authorizes examination of defendants via telehealth. Amends conditions for certain petty misdemeanants' release or examination of fitness to proceed. Provides a mechanism for the automatic screening of certain nonviolent defendants for involuntary hospitalization or assisted community treatment. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 2552 HD1 – Relating to Employee Benefits. Extends, under certain conditions, the family leave period for up to eight additional weeks for employees who are unable to perform their employment duties due to the birth of a child who is required to stay in a neonatal intensive care unit. Requires the Civil Rights Commission to amend its rules to include neonatal care as a related medical condition whenever certain phrases are used. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 2553 HD2 – Relating to Pharmacists. Authorizes pharmacists to order and administer immunizations and vaccinations to children three years of age and older under state law. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 2556 HD2 - Relating to the Hawaii Able Savings Program. Amends the sources of funding for the Hawai'i ABLE Saving Program Trust Fund. Amends the authorized uses of moneys in the trust fund, including providing incentive payments to Hawai'i public school ABLE account owners. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 2712 HD1 – Relating to Autism. Appropriates funds to increase the funding for applied behavioral analysis services for persons with autism. Requires the Department of Human Services to obtain maximum federal matching funds and pursue all other funding sources. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 2744 HD2 – Relating to Oral Health. Establishes an oral health task force to review the status of oral health in the State and make recommendations to improve the State's oral health infrastructure. Requires reports to the Legislature. Appropriates moneys. **(COMMENTS)**

SB 2091 SD2 – Relating to Public Utilities. Requires all telecommunications service providers to communicate relevant information relating to the deenergization of electrical lines to public safety or emergency response offices for the affected areas. Requires all electric utility companies to operate electrical lines and equipment in a manner that shall minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire posed by the electrical lines and equipment. Requires each electric utility company to prepare a wildfire mitigation plan and protocols for deenergizing electrical lines. **(COMMENT)**

SB 2345 SD2 – Relating to Crisis Intervention. Requires police commissions to ensure that all full-time police officers receive crisis intervention training relating to interaction with persons with mental disabilities. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 2474 SD2 – Relating to Family Leave. Provides that eligible public and private sector employees in the State of Hawai'i are provided with up to 16 weeks per calendar year of paid family leave to take care of a newborn child, for a serious health condition, absence due to domestic abuse or stalking of the employee or a family member, or to take care of a sick family member. Establishes an insurance fund. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 2476 – Relating to Dental Hygienists. Authorizes dental hygienists who are under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist to perform preventive dental sealant screenings and apply dental sealants on certain individuals in a school-based oral health program. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 2682 SD1 – Relating to Lead Poisoning. Beginning 1/1/2025, requires physicians to perform or order test for lead poisoning in minor patients at certain intervals, and if the physician performs the test, the results to be included in the minor patient's record of immunization. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 2959 SD1 – Relating to Taxation. Establishes an income tax credit for medically-related travel expenses not covered by insurance. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 2992 SD2 – Relating to Mental Health. Beginning 7/1/2025, and occurring every ten years thereafter, requires the Department of Health to convene an Advisory Committee on Mental Health Code Review. **(SUPPORT INTENT)**

SB 3125 SD2 - Relating to Medical Care for Minors. Authorizes minors who are 14 years or older to consent to medical care for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, and family planning services, including the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. Requires confidentiality policies and practices for insurers and providers. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 3137 SD2 – Relating to Mental Health Services for Children and Adolescents. Amends the statutes pertaining to mental health services for children and adolescents provided by the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Division of the Department of Health to reflect the current mental health systems of care that address intensive mental health needs of children and adolescents. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 3139 SD2 – Relating to Crisis Services. Establishes an expanded crisis intervention and diversion activities program within the Department of Health to expand existing activities to divert those with mental health issues to appropriate health care services. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 3141 SD2 – Relating to Mental Health. Requires the Department of Health to track and publicly report certain data relating to crisis reports, emergency mental health transports, and court-ordered treatments. Requires the Department of Health to respond to reports about persons having severe mental illness who are in need of assistance, assess whether those persons may fulfill the criteria for assisted community treatment, and coordinate the process for an assisted community treatment order if indicated. Establishes that a court's denial of a petition for involuntary commitment shall serve as notification to the Department of Health that the person should be evaluated for assisted community treatment. Appropriates funds to the Department of Health for software and data collection and publication. Appropriates funds to the Department of Health for statewide education and training on policies related to emergency examination and hospitalization and assisted community treatment. **(MONITOR)**

G. Transportation and Mobility

HB 2071 HD1 – Relating to Photo Red Light Imaging Detector Systems. Provides that any photo red light imaging detector system's clear and unobstructed recorded image of a motor vehicle license plate shall be prima facie evidence that the motor vehicle to which the license plate is attached is the motor vehicle for which the license plate was issued. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 2082 HD1 – Relating to School Bus Services. Establishes comprehensive standards for the department of education related to school bus services to ensure reasonable accommodation, equitable access, timely communication, and accountability. The standards shall include providing reasonable accommodation for students who may be disproportionately affected by bus service changes due to disabilities, special needs, or other unique circumstances; provided that such accommodation may include alternative transportation arrangements and support services. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 2443 SD2 – Relating to Highway Safety. Establishes the Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Program. Authorizes the state or counties to administer the Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Program. Requires fines collected beginning 1/1/2025 for violations on a county highway to be expended for the operation of the Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Program. Creates a new offense of noncompliance with the posted speed limit under the Automated Speed Enforcement System. **(SUPPORT)**

SB 3002 SD1 – Making an Appropriation to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Mobility Management, Established Pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawaii 2013. Makes an appropriation to the Department of Transportation to implement the recommendations of the statewide Mobility Management Task Force, established pursuant to Act 214, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2013, in consultation with the Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Executive Office on Aging and other stakeholder groups. **(SUPPORT)**

H. Emergency Management

HB 1837 HD1 – Relating to School Safety. Requires the Department of Education to grant public access to emergency action plans that do not pose a security risk to students, staff, or guests of school campuses. Requires each Department school to have a comprehensive school evacuation communication plan for use during emergencies. Requires the Department of Education to collaborate with the Department of Transportation to assess all Department school campuses to determine if there are sufficient emergency evacuation routes for each campus and report to the Legislature. **(COMMENT)**

I. Administration

HB 1598 HD1 – Relating to the Sunshine Law. Requires board meeting packets to be available 2 business days before the meeting instead of 48 hours before. Note, HB 1858 and SB 2198, bill title different relating to Public Agency Meetings. **(SUPPORT)**

HB 1599 HD1 - Relating to the Sunshine Law. Requires public meeting notices to inform members of the public how to provide remote oral testimony in a manner that allows the testifier, upon request, to be visible to board members and other meeting participants. Affirms the right of a board to remove or block someone who willfully disrupts or compromises the conduct of a meeting. (SB 2636 bill title different relating to Remote Meetings.)  
**(SUPPORT)**

SB 2172 SD1 – Relating to Boards and Commissions. Establishes the priority of who may assume the authority and duties of a chairperson of a board or commission in the chairperson's and all co-chairperson's absence at a hearing or meeting of a board or commission. Prohibits staff members from assuming the authority and duties of the chairperson of a board or commission. **(MONITOR)**

J. Other

HB 824 HD2 SD1 – Relating to Medical Release. Creates a medical release program within the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation for certain ill or impaired inmates who pose a low risk to public safety. **(MONITOR)**

VII. Open Forum

Staff reported that between bills which carried over and bills that the Committee took a position on this session, there are 316 bills and resolution being tracked, 138 written testimonies have been submitted, and staff has provided oral testimony at 6 hearings.

VIII. The Committee will meet on May 22, 2024 at 10:00 am.

IX. Chairperson Violet Horvath adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

NOTE: All votes were unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Respectfully submitted,



BRYAN K. MICK