

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, January 11, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Okuniewicz, Vice Chairman Den Hartog, Senators Winder, Hart, Carlson, Trakel, Rabe, Just

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Toews

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Okuniewicz** called the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 P.M.

WELCOME: **Chairman Okuniewicz** welcomed all to the meeting.

RS30885 **Related to Motor Vehicle Driver's Licenses; amending section 49-303, Idaho code.** **Senator Herndon** presented **RS 30885** to the Committee to change a word pertaining to Section 49-303 Line 11 of Idaho code. There were 14 categories of persons that should not have a driver's license. In the case a person was issued a license from the prohibited category, the department of transportation had the authority to revoke the license. This Legislation changed "may" to "shall" and kept consistent with the wording of Section 49-303 Line 9. The Director for the Department of Transportation and Director of driver's licenses had been informed and there was no issue with the word change. **Senator Rabe** asked if a driver's license was mistakenly issued to one of the people in these categories, how the issue would be handled. **Senator Herndon** suspected it would only be in the case of a mistake that a driver's license was issued. If this happened, the department would revoke the license affirming Idaho Code.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 30885** to print. **Senator Just** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

RS 30910 **Related to Abandonment and Vacation of County Highways or Public Rights-of-Way; Amending Section 49-203, Idaho code.** **Senator Herndon** presented **RS 30910** to the committee. Idaho code Section 40-203 defines two types of political subdivisions: Counties and Highway Districts. Under this section of code County Commissioners were given the authority to abandon public right-of-ways and public roads. Certain roads and right-of-ways furnished public access to State and Federal public lands and waters. **Senator Herndon** continued to state that through the process of abandoning these public roads and rights-of-ways, there was no provision of where evidence was presented to commissioners. The first change to this bill allowed evidence as to whether it was in the public's interest to abandon a road access that would limit or restrict access to public lands and waters. **Senator Herndon** also expressed that when a road or right-of-way has limited access to public lands and waters was considered for abandonment, a replacement access became as good or better than the initial access be created. As land became limited and subdivided to developers, access is wanted to these resources. **Senator Just** stated he had spent time working on the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and as part of a survey Idahoans

highly value the access to public lands. Providing a replacement was in line with Land and Water Conservation Fund criteria to receive grant funding. **Senator Just** thanked **Senator Herndon** for his efforts in this legislation.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 30910** to print. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

INTRODUCTION: **Caitlyn Ross, Senate Page**, shared with the committee that she was a senior at Meridian High School and had plans to attend Boise State University in the fall, study Political Science and move forward attend law school to become a lawyer. **Senator Carlson** asked what made **Ms. Ross** want to become a Senate Page. **Ms. Ross** stated that she had always been intrigued by the legislative process and her mother had exposed her to the process at a young age.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of James Hoff of Idaho Falls, Idaho to the Aeronautics Advisory Board to serve a term commencing April 1, 2023, and expiring January 31, 2028.** **James Hoff** introduced himself to the committee. **Mr. Hoff** stated his father served on the Idaho Transportation Department Board as well as on the Aeronautics Board. **Mr. Hoff** is a fourth-generation potato farmer, a third-generation pilot, and an aircraft mechanic. **Senator Winder** thanked **Mr. Hoff** for his willingness to serve. **Senator Just** asked where **Mr. Hoff** was from. **Mr. Hoff** replied with Bonneville County, just outside of Idaho Falls. **Senator Den Hartog** noted that the Hoff family had a business that provided fuel to the Aeronautics Department and asked for more information. **Mr. Hoff** stated his family supplied high quality fuel products to aviation related entities and supplied aircraft maintenance.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Okuniewicz** adjourned the meeting at 1:49 p.m.

Senator Okuniewicz
Chair

Alicia Fowler-Rynearson
Secretary