

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 14, 2019

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Gestrin, Kauffman, Youngblood, Dixon, Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, DeMordaunt (Call), Syme, Blanksma, Addis, Ricks, Wintrow, Gannon, Davis, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Blanksma

GUESTS: Nick Veldhouse, IAHD; Pat Carr, R. Hobdey-Sanchez, Barry Takeuchi, ITD; Sandra Mitchel, IRC; David Claiborne, ISATVA; Morgan Lommele, People for Bikes; Jeremy Chew, Givens Pursley; Steven Thomas, Polaris; Andy Brunelle, USDA Forest Service; Jonathan Oppenheimer, Idaho Conservation League

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

H 76: **Rep. Ricks** presented **H 76**. This legislation is an attempt to create clarity in Idaho Code with regard to a new category of bicycles gaining popularity on Idaho roads, paths and trails. These bicycles utilize small electric motors to provide a boost to the rider on hills or flat roads where extra speed is desirable. They are called E-bikes and have all the features common to regular bicycles.

In answer to a committee question, **Rep. Ricks** said E-bikes are not mopeds or motorcycles. Riders will have to follow all existing laws and "rules of the road" for bicycles.

Kate Haas, of Kestrel West, representing People for Bikes, said not to consider speed when you look at E-bikes. In order to activate the electric assist, you have to be pedaling.

Morgan Lommele, representing People for Bikes, E-bike manufacturers and companies who manufacture bike accessories and parts, said most states lack regulation for electric assist bikes. She added, bicycle manufacturers have agreed on industry standards. This legislation incorporates those standards into state law, and uses them to establish a framework for how cities, counties and the state regulate the use of E-bikes. Local control will remain in place.

MOTION: **Rep. Addis** made a motion to send **H 76** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ricks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 90: **Steven Thomas**, representing Polaris, presented **H 90**. Mr. Thomas said manufacturers want to develop more capable and stable models of all terrain and utility type vehicles. In order to do this they need more width and weight than current law allows. This bill increases maximum widths for ATV's to up to 55 inches and up to 80 inches for UTV's.

In answer to committee questions, **Mr. Thomas** said Idaho is a popular state for trail riding. The manufacturers want to be able to market their products here. Trails and roads are well marked as far as what size vehicles are allowed on them. Mr. Thomas deferred to **Rep. Monks**.

Rep. Monks responded to a question saying, trails in Idaho are well marked and the laws are understood by those who trail ride.

Andy Brunelle, U.S. Forest Service said the Forest Service is neutral on the legislation. He added, maps are published with a legend stating what size vehicles are allowed on specific trails and roads. He said Forest Service roads are open to vehicles 50" and above. There are actually physical barriers to designate the size vehicle allowed in specific areas.

MOTION: **Rep. Addis** made a motion to send **H 90** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Monks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Palmer handed the gavel to **Rep. Syme** at 2:01 p.m.

H 107: **Chairman Palmer** presented **H 107**. This bill increases the distribution to the Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation program from 1% of sales tax collections to 2% of sales tax collections.

Jeremy Chew testified in support of the bill.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to send **H 107** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Youngblood declared **Rule 38** saying he is a highway district commissioner.

Reps. Gannon and **Wintrow** spoke in opposition to the motion. They cited philosophical differences with where the funding for roads should come from.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Rep. Syme** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 107** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Wintrow, Rubel, Gannon** and **Davis** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Chairman Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Rep. Syme passed the gavel to **Chairman Palmer** at 2:11 p.m.

Chairman Palmer recognized and thanked **Bradley Chrysler**, who has been an exemplary Page for the committee during the first half of the session. **Chairman Palmer** sponsored Brad and is a personal friend of the family. The Committee presented Bradley with the gift of a personalized, handmade blanket.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Joyce McKenzie
Secretary