

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, April 16, 2021
TIME: Upon Adjournment From the Floor
PLACE: Room EW40
MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman DeMordaunt, Representatives Gestrin, Youngblood, Dixon, Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, Syme, Blanksma, Addis, Manwaring, Mitchell, Okuniewicz, Shepherd, Gannon, Rubel, McCrostie
ABSENT/EXCUSED: Vice Chairman DeMordaunt, Representative(s) Youngblood, Holtzclaw, Blanksma
GUESTS: None

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 12:06pm.

H 229aaS: **Chairman Palmer** stated when he presented **H 229aaS** in committee on April 14, 2021, for **Rep. Gestrin**, who was taking care of a family emergency, he did not have all of the pertinent information necessary for the committee to consider. As a result, **H 229aaS** was returned to committee in order for Rep. Gestrin to provide a more detailed explanation of the Senate amendments.

Rep. Gestrin, District 8, thanked the committee for considering the Senate amendments a second time. He indicated the amendments only add \$10.00 to the in-state snowmobile sticker fee and \$10.00 to the rental snowmobile fee. If the committee concurs with the amendments, overall, **H 229aaS** would generate over \$611,000 in additional revenues, with over \$328,000 of that from non-resident fees. These additional funds will support the construction and grooming of trails and maintenance of parking lots and toilets. Additionally, \$1.00 from each fee collected will be set aside to establish a statewide snowmobile avalanche program, which will include avalanche awareness education, avalanche forecasting, an avalanche warning system, and avalanche response throughout the state.

In response to committee questions regarding what happens if this bill isn't passed, **Rep. Gestrin** stated the last time there was a fee increase was 2007, so this bill is just trying to catch up with the cost of doing business to keep the program solvent.

Several committee members spoke with concern over the level of the fee increase.

MOTION: **Rep. Addis** made a motion to concur with the amendments made in the Senate to **H 229aaS**. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Harris, Monks, and Mitchell** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Gestrin** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2021 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary