

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, February 08, 2023

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Mitchell, Representatives Dixon(1), Holtzclaw (Yorgason), Monks, Blanksma, Manwaring, Shepherd, Crane(12), Handy, Hill, Lanting, Miller, Petzke, Yamamoto, Gannon, Burns

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Miller

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Mitchell** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2 and 6, 2023 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30231: **Rep. Mitchell**, District 6, stated this proposed legislation will allow for a re-design of the amateur license plate. He explained, amateur radios are used in emergency situations, so being able to quickly identify radio operators will be beneficial in those situations.

MOTION: **Rep. Gannon** made a motion to introduce **RS 30231**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 85: **Rep. Petzke**, District 21, stated **H 85** addresses declining revenues in local motor vehicle offices due to the 2021 upgrade to Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) software to modernize the system. Currently, motor vehicle offices are designed to be funded by fees generated by the services provided, mainly for registration renewals and title processing. He continued, with the new system, ITD centralized many renewal transactions, which reduced many motor vehicle offices' revenues related to those transactions. Without this legislation, property taxes would need to be increased to cover the lost revenues.

In response to committee questions regarding the fees, **Rep. Petzke** yielded the podium to **Brian Stender**, Canyon County Assessor. Mr. Stender explained, a working group was established to address this issue, and with consensus, agreed to focus on title fee transactions, because they are typically longer transactions in the motor vehicle office. The \$3.00 share of the title fee hasn't changed in over 30 years, but the cost of services has increased significantly, so this would allow the various boards of county commissioners to establish fees at the local level. He further explained, there is already a built-in fee cap because administrative fees cannot generate a profit, so administrative fees cannot be more than the cost of the services provided.

MOTION: **Rep. Yamamoto** made a motion to send **H 85** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Petzke** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 86: **Rep. Mendive**, District 5, stated **H 86** would allow qualifying parents and legal guardians to be private educators for Class D driver's training instructional permits for their student drivers under the age of 17. Currently, Idaho law does not permit this, so student drivers must either take a driver's education class in school (if it's offered), or privately, which costs \$250.00 and higher, depending on who's teaching the course. He explained, **H 86** would authorize the parent or legal guardian discretion as to the classroom training, but 92 hours over a period of 6 months would be required, including no less than 50 hours of street or highway driving, and no less than 10 hours of driving after sunset or before sunrise. The parent or legal guardian must maintain a log and submit the log to the driver's license office, then the student driver must successfully pass all the tests. He concluded, this bill provides an additional tool for people in rural areas where finding driver's education training can be difficult and costly.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 86** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to a committee question regarding online training, **Rep. Mendive** stated there are online driver's training courses available if the parent or legal guardian wanted to include that in their training.

In response to a committee question regarding the definition of legal guardian, **Rep. Mendive** remarked the bill states a parent or legal guardian is any family member who is 21 years of age or older.

Bonnie Voves, representing herself, spoke **in support** of this bill. She stated she has been working with legislators on this bill for seven years as a result of personal experience teaching her own son to drive in Alaska, but not being able to complete the training after moving to Idaho due to differences in Idaho law. She remarked, this bill will simply add parents as teachers.

Kelly Duran, representing the Fallen Riders Fund, **Lori Solders**, representing Idaho Coalition for Motorcycle Safety, and **Tonya Haustviet**, representing Phillips Driving School all spoke **in opposition** to **H 86**. They expressed concern student drivers would be missing critical classroom and professionally trained driver's instruction, parents or legal guardians aren't able to properly provide. They believe by allowing this legislation to pass, it will make Idaho roads more dangerous than they already are.

Rep. Mendive stood and closed. He stated he trusts parents, parents are liable if they become the student driver trainer, and nobody cares more about their children than parents. **H 86** is not mandatory, it provides an additional option for parents or legal guardians to train their student drivers.

Discussion on the motion was held. Committee members expressed concern about this bill doing more harm than good and will make Idaho's road less safe. There was also concern about extending the training beyond parents to other family members, and about student drivers missing out on crucial information if they miss classroom instruction from professional trainers, but do support freedom of choice.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Palmer** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 86** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Lanting and Gannon** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Mendive** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 87: **Rep. Dixon**, District 1, stated this legislation clarifies funding spent within the Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation Program (TECM) will be limited to projects focused on expansion of travel lanes and congestion mitigation.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 87** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to committee questions regarding the use of TECM funds for pedestrian safety and bicycle lanes, **Rep. Dixon (1)** replied these funds are for motor vehicles and congestion mitigation and there are other funding sources which address pedestrian safety and bicycle lanes.

Cynthia Gibson, representing Idaho Walk Bike Alliance, spoke **in opposition** to **H 87**, stating Idaho should not be focusing on one mode of transportation, rather on multiple modes of travel such as walking and bicycling. She remarked, Idaho should design a system where not everyone needs to drive a car.

Rep. Dixon (1) stood and closed. He stated the purpose of **H 87** is to ensure funding within the TECM program is spent for its intended purposes.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Chairman Palmer called for a vote on the motion to send **H 87** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Dixon (1)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary