

MINUTES  
**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 12, 2024

**TIME:** 1:30pm or Upon Adjournment

**PLACE:** Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Blanksma, Shepherd, 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 1:31pm.

**Chairman Palmer** introduced the committee's new Page, **Silas Frederick**.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Burns** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 28 and March 6, 2024 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mitchell** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Chairman Palmer** announced, due to the absence of the first bill presenter, he was changing the order on the agenda.

**S 1311:** **Senator Trakel**, District 11, stated families should be able to honor their veteran loved ones at the Idaho Veteran's Cemetery and utilize the facilities to do so if the deceased is eligible for honors and the facility is available, without the requirement of the Idaho Veteran's Cemetery being the final resting place. He explained some families were denied a service because their deceased were not being interned there. The issue was quickly corrected, but to assure this won't happen again, **S 1311** adds a new section to **Idaho Code, Section 65-109**, which clarifies the eligibility and service requirements.

**Mark Tschampl**, Director, Idaho Division of Veteran's Services, stated they take the care of veterans seriously, and because they are not perfect, admitted a mistake was made by a junior employee regarding turning away families who wanted to schedule services for their veteran loved ones without internment. Once they discovered this mistake, the issue was quickly corrected and the junior employee received additional training. He stated, although this issue is covered in federal statute, which applies to the state cemetery, he is **in support** of **S 1311** if it will alleviate concern this could happen again.

**Daniel Murphy**, self; **Karen Brodesser**, self; and **Rosa Martinez**, self, all testified **in support** of **S 1311**. They were of the opinion all veterans should be honored regardless of where they are laid to rest.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Burns** made a motion to send **S 1311** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. He commended the Director for remedying the situation to honor all veterans and appreciates this bill clarifies in statute how this situation will be handled moving forward. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Hill** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1365aa:** **Rep. Manwaring**, District 29, stated **S 1365aa** will allow for the creation of a Next-of-Kin Database within the Idaho Transportation Department's (ITD) Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This will give DMV the ability to collect the necessary information for coroners and law enforcement to notify a relative or friend in the case of injury, death, or other emergencies. He indicated, this information is voluntary for the driver's license owners.

**Torey Danner** and **Kelli Brassfield**, Idaho Association of Counties; **Daniel Murphy**, self; and **Michael Johnson**, Boise County Coroners Office all testified in support of **S 1365aa**. They were of the opinion people tend not to carry next-of-kin information in their wallets, which makes it very difficult to try and find next-of-kin with so many new residents who may become involved in accidents, so this voluntary database will be a very useful tool.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Yamamoto** made a motion to send **S 1365aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Manwaring** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1317:** **Rep. Boyle**, District 9, stated **S 1317** will allow for the new Gadsden flag "Don't Tread On Me" specialty license plate. She stated, funds from the purchase of this license plate would establish a Firearms Safety Grant Fund to cover initial costs of the new plate program, and to establish and maintain a firearms safety education course for primary and secondary school students. The firearms safety education course will be developed and instructed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, a law enforcement agency, a national firearms association, or a person recognized as having expertise in firearms safety education, and will be an elective course.

**Aoibheann Cline**, National Rifle Association (NRA), spoke in support of **S 1317**. She highlighted the significance and history of the Gadsden flag and provided an overview of the NRA non-profit firearms safety programs the organization provides to people of all ages in Idaho.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Monks** made a motion to send **S 1317** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Gannon and Burns** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY. Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:04pm.

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Representative Palmer  
Chair

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Tracey McDonnell  
Secretary