

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 06, 2012
TIME: 1:30 P.M.
PLACE: Room EW40
MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Ellsworth, Representative(s) Wood(35), Smith(24), Bedke, Wills, Hart, Nonini, Hagedorn, Bateman, Henderson, Nasset, Ringo, King, Killen
**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative Hart
GUESTS: Ross Borden, City of Boise; Mike Berry, and Tamara Mackenthun, Division of Veteran Services; Zach Hauge, Capitol West

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:32 P.M.

RS 20967: **Tamara Mackenthun**, Administrative Support Manager, Division of Veteran Services (DVS), presented **RS 20967**, and stated that her duties include acting for the Director on legislative issues. This proposed legislation will allow DVS to formally appoint a member of their Division to receive payments, when the veteran's family is receiving income, but not using it for the resident's living expenses. DVS has assumed this duty but has been doing so at the risk of being liable. When a physician who is not an employee of DVS has determined that the resident is not capable of handling their own financial affairs, the DVS Administrator appoints a designee as payee to provide for the money to be kept in trust, applied to certain expenses and to provide for accounting of those funds. The paying entity may conduct their own reviews. A trained and licensed social worker will also be present with the resident to make sure they understand their rights. The Division already manages trust accounts for residents, and we have not experienced any issues with these trust accounts.

A question was asked about what the Division does when there is a problem receiving funds. **Tamara Mackenthun** said the administrator in the home steps up even though they could incur liability. It is not an optimum situation, but we have an ombudsman who works with and for our veterans. When asked if there was another way to deal with these issues through the courts, Tamara Mackenthun deferred to **Julie Weaver**, Deputy Attorney for the Division; she said there is a guardian in place, but it is very costly and time consuming. The committee asked to have more information presented about the process when a resident is declared to need a fiduciary. The committee also requested more information on the safety aspects in place to guarantee the money is used for the intended purpose, along with a description of the audit procedure and how often the audits are prepared.

MOTION: **Representative Henderson** made a motion to introduce **RS 20967**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Chairman Palmer turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Ellsworth** in order to present **RS 21164**.

RS 21164: **Chairman Palmer** presented **RS 21165**. This legislation proposes to make the meters inoperable when the Legislature is in session. Because many committee meetings extend beyond the time allotted on a parking meter, this will allow the public to attend or testify at a meeting without receiving a parking ticket.

A question was asked about what would prevent state employees from taking advantage of the free meters. **Chairman Palmer** said there is no way to completely solve this, but a letter could be sent out to state employees reminding them of the purpose of the parking spaces. In answer to the question of what control would be put in place so that the public would not stay all day, Chairman Palmer said there are no guarantees, but security could monitor the parking spaces. The committee suggested a three hour time limit be put on each space. Asked about how much revenue would be lost to the city from these free parking meters, Chairman Palmer said he does not know, but the City of Boise will provide that information. Finally a more precise definition of the wording "parking meters adjacent to or adjoining the state buildings of the Capitol Mall area" was requested by committee members.

MOTION:

Representative Bateman made a motion to introduce **RS 21164**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 P.M.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Jane Clark
Secretary