

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW53
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Hammond, Senators Keough, McGee, Winder, Bair, Werk, and Bilyeu
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Brackett and Senator Corder were both excused.
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies, and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the Committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENE:** **Chairman Hammond** called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and asked the secretary to take a silent roll. With a quorum present, the Chairman asked for a motion on the minutes of the January 31st Committee meeting.
- MINUTES:** **Senator Bilyeu** moved that the minutes from the January 31, 2012, meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee be approved. **Senator Keough** seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.
- H473:** **Chairman Hammond** welcomed **Senator Tippets** to the Committee and invited him to come to the podium to speak about the bill and introduce **Representative Guthrie** who would be presenting H473.
- Senator Tippets** said H473 deals with drivers license and identification card renewal. Current law allows renewal of a drivers license or an identification card within twelve months of the date that it expires. The primary purpose of this bill is to modify the law to allow you to renew a drivers license or an identification card within twenty-five months of expiration. This greater flexibility would be a tremendous benefit to those who will be out-of- State for an extended period of time; people like students, the military, and missionaries. There are other minor changes. **Senator Tippets** turned the podium over to **Representative Guthrie** for further explanation of the bill.
- Representative Guthrie** started with a brief history of this legislation. At the end of last year's session, the Representative received an email from a constituent concerned with his children's drivers licenses expiring while gone on church missions. The constituent asked him to look into the law in Utah that mitigates this problem. **Representative Guthrie** worked with Legislative Services and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) staff, and came up with H473. The ITD Board has looked at it and have no legal or administrative problems with the bill. ITD does not endorse outside legislation. The bill includes Department recommended changes. He went through the bill explaining changed sections to the Committee. **Representative Guthrie** asked the Committee to send H473 to the floor with a do-pass recommendation, and stood for questions.

QUESTIONS:

Senator Bilyeu asked if she was pulled over for speeding and her drivers license is expired, rather than get a ticket for an expired license could she say that she has been out of State. **Representative Guthrie** does not believe the two issues would be compatible. **Chairman Hammond** asked Ed Pemble, the Drivers Services Manager at ITD, to respond to that question. He said that the changes in this bill would not affect the legality of driving with an expired license. You still must have a valid license to drive a vehicle in the State of Idaho.

Senator Bair hypothetically asked if a young person is out-of-State and while they are gone, their drivers license expires. As long as they're out of State they won't be in trouble for having an expired license. He wanted to know if from the moment they come back they will be susceptible to receiving a ticket with an expired license. Mr. Pemble confirmed that he was correct. He also mentioned that if you're driving in a foreign country that recognizes our driving privileges, you must have a valid drivers license. For those out-of-State, there is an extension process in statute for a \$10 fee. H473 does solve a problem for those who will be gone for longer than a year.

Chairman Hammond said that he believes the confusion is that they're connecting driving without a valid drivers license with renewing your drivers license. They are really two separate issues. If your drivers license is expired, it is expired and you cannot drive legally. This issue does not relate to the issue in H473. The bill relates to coming back and being able to renew your drivers license without any problems instead of up to twelve months now it's twenty-five months. Mr. Pemble said that was correct. The bill gives you the ability to renew up to twenty-five months late without any punitive action, in terms of retesting for knowledge and skills. There were no further questions.

**CLOSING
REMARKS:**

Senator Tippetts wanted to clarify that this bill allows you to renew your drivers license even though you're not within that one-year period of time before it expires. If your license expires in six or eight months, you can renew it now. If it expires in thirteen months from now, you cannot renew it now, you have to wait until you're within that one-year window. This bill says that as long as you're within a twenty-five month window you can renew that drivers license. **Chairman Hammond** said that basically this bill says you have a longer period of time to renew your drivers license without having to go through the testing process. **Senator Tippetts** said if you know you're going to be out-of-State for an extended period of time, you can make sure you get your drivers license or identification license renewed before you go.

MOTION:

Senator Bair moved to send H473 to the Senate floor with a do-pass recommendation. **Senator Bilyeu** seconded the motion. With no discussion on the motion, the bill passed by a unanimous voice vote. **Senator Tippetts** will carry the bill on the Senate floor.

Senator Werk asked that the reference to 'Idaho Transportation Board' in the sponsor information on H473's Statement of Purpose be removed. **Chairman Hammond** indicated that the error would be brought to the Secretary of the Senate's attention for correction.

ADJOURNMENT:

After **Chairman Hammond** introduced some guests in the audience and thanked them for being in Committee today, he adjourned the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Senator Hammond
Chairman

Gaye Bennett
Secretary