

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 05, 2013

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Johnson, Senators Keough, Winder, Rice, Nonini, Hagedorn, Bock and Buckner-Webb

ABSENT/ EXCUSED:

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Brackett** 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** welcomed everyone to the hearing.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Chairman Brackett** welcomed Jerry Whitehead, Chairman of the Idaho Transportation Board (Board), to the Committee, and asked him to introduce R. James Coleman who is under consideration for reappointment to the Board.

Mr. Whitehead thanked the Chairman and the Committee and introduced **Mr. Coleman** who took the podium to present a brief introductory background of his experience. He is a graduate of Boise High School. He is a wastewater environmental engineer and has built a career with J-U-B Engineers. He has worked in their offices in Nampa, Twin Falls and Coeur d'Alene, where he currently lives. He went on to discuss his years of experience in the transportation field and his first appointment to the Board by Governor Otter when the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) was having problems. **Mr. Coleman** stood for questions.

A question-and-answer period ensued from **Senator Buckner-Webb** who knew Mr. Coleman in high school, **Senator Winder** who thanked Mr. Coleman for his willingness to serve on the Board for a second term, **Senator Keough** who enjoyed working with Mr. Coleman in North Idaho, **Senator Nonini** who expressed Mr. Coleman's positive reputation in Coeur d'Alene, **Senator Johnson** who was concerned about road and bridges issues, and **Senator Hagedorn** who thanked Mr. Coleman for "stepping up." In response to their questions, **Mr. Coleman** offered his position on safety versus maintenance costs, heavy truck safety, user fees, administrative fees and other revenue sources. **Chairman Brackett** thanked Mr. Coleman for his comments and insight, and reminded the Committee members that the vote on Mr. Coleman's appointment would occur at the next meeting of the Committee.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Chairman Brackett** addressed the next item of business, which was a vote on the appointment of Charles "Chip" A. Kemper of Idaho Falls to the Aeronautics Advisory Board. The hearing on this appointment was held on January 31, 2013.

MOTION: **Senator Hagedorn** moved that the committee recommend the appointment of Charles "Chip" A. Kemper to the Aeronautics Advisory Board be approved by the Senate. **Senator Bock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**. **Chairman Brackett** will carry the appointment on the Senate floor.

- MINUTES:** **Chairman Brackett** addressed the next item of business, which was approval of minutes of the January 22, 2013 Committee meeting.
- MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved that the minutes of January 22, 2013 be accepted. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**.
- S 1043** **Chairman Brackett** welcomed Ms. Tamara Mackenthun, Idaho Division of Veterans Services' (IDVS) Deputy Administrator, to the podium to present **S 1043**. **Ms. Mackenthun** said the purpose of **S 1043** is to offer Idaho veterans the option to include the word "veteran" on their driver's license or identification card. She said the intention of this legislation is to formally recognize a veteran's service with this designation, especially Vietnam veterans for whom any level of recognition is important. The legislation would also: (1) identify veterans who might not know they are eligible for IDVS benefits, including medical services; (2) potentially reduce the need for state-funded benefits for these veterans, particularly for Medicaid benefits; and, (3) gain a better understanding of who Idaho veterans are and how we can serve them better. **Ms. Mackenthun** said the legislation is a convenient means of providing proof of a veteran's status and will ensure that veterans receive any special services available, such as employment, merchants, law enforcement and first responders. **Ms. Mackenthun** stood for questions.
- TESTIMONY:** **Chairman Brackett** recognized testimony from **Eric Danielson**, who said he was speaking as a private citizen. He is a medically retired Army Flight Medical Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), and is currently a Senate intern. He spoke in support of **S 1043**, emphasizing that the ability for veterans to be identified in this way would save lives. There were no questions for Mr. Danielson. **Chairman Brackett** thanked Mr. Danielson for his testimony.
- MOTION:** With no further testimony or questions, **Senator Hagedorn** moved to send **S 1043** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Bock** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**. **Senator Hagedorn** will carry the bill on the floor.
- S 1044** **Chairman Brackett** asked **Senator Hagedorn** to present **S 1044**, who said this bill amends Idaho Code § 49-1114 by revising the definition of "motorcycle" to reflect changing technologies. **Senator Hagedorn** asked Marieann Christman, representing various motorbike groups, to the podium to explain the rationale for this legislation. He identified Ms. Christman as the original author of the bill.
- TESTIMONY:** **Ms. Christman** gave a special thank you to Senator Hagedorn for his sponsorship of this legislation. As a motorbike rider herself, Ms. Christman represents many motorbike riders using our roadways. She encourages the passage of **S 1044** because this updated definition encompasses motorbikes that utilize attached stabilizing wheels. She said the benefit is primarily for those who want a safer and more economical means of transportation. She specifically identified "baby-boomers" and handicapped individuals as groups who could benefit from this legislation. **Ms. Christman** said the stabilizing wheels provide higher visibility, greater safety, fewer accidents and more stability. By not legalizing such vehicles, she feels the current law is discriminatory. **Ms. Christman** stood for questions.
- Senator Bock** asked if ITD has weighed in on this legislation. **Ms. Christmas** said that ITD had given her a very positive response.
- Senator Hagedorn** asked if ITD was planning to testify. **Ms. Christman** said ITD had no concerns with the proposal as written and would not be testifying. There were no further questions for Ms. Christman.

Chairman Brackett thanked Ms. Christman for her testimony and called for a motion on the bill.

MOTION:

Senator Rice moved to send **S 1044** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Hagedorn** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**. **Senator Hagedorn** will carry the bill on the floor.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, **Chairman Brackett** adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Senator Brackett
Chairman

Gaye Bennett
Secretary