

MINUTES  
**SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 11, 2013

**TIME:** 1:15 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 1:15 p.m. and asked the secretary to take a silent roll. With a quorum present, the **Chairman** welcomed the Committee members and the audience to a special hearing of the Committee. The **Chairman** explained that today, February 11, is the last date that RSs can be referred for printing from a standing committees. Following today, only privileged committees can recommend RSs to print. Therefore, today's Committee meeting will take up RSs germane to transportation issues. With that explanation, the **Chairman** welcomed Senator Nuxoll to the Committee and asked her to present **RS 21964**.

**RS 21964** **Senator Nuxoll** introduced **RS 21964**, which amends Chapter 4, Title 49, Idaho Code, by adding a new Section 49-4290M to establish the Idaho Volunteer Emergency Medical Service (EMS) license plate program.

**Senator Nuxoll** reviewed the language contained in **RS 21964** and associated Statement of Purpose, which stipulates the license plate would be available only to active current volunteers who serve on licensed EMS units in Idaho. The plate represents a way to recognize and honor the service volunteer EMS providers in their communities. The fiscal impact is expected to be approximately \$3,000 that will be borne by the EMS Fund. **Senator Nuxoll** concluded by saying that the details of the bill have been worked out with the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). She stood for questions.

**Vice Chairman Johnson** asked where the funding would come from to set up the program. **Senator Nuxoll** said the \$3,000 would come from the EMS Fund.

**MOTION:** **Senator Hagedorn** moved to print **RS 21964**. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Senator Bock** moved to return **RS 21964** to the sponsor. The motion was seconded by **Senator Buckner-Webb**. **Senator Bock** said that specialty license plates are getting out of hand and a new one does not need to be added. With no further discussion, the **Chairman** called for a vote on the substitute motion. The substitute motion failed by **voice vote**.

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** The **Chairman** called for a vote on the original motion, which carried by majority **voice vote**.

- RS 21966C1** **Senator Vick** introduced **RS 21966C1**, amending Idaho Code § 49-443, to establish provisions relating to the use of specialty license plates. **Senator Vick** said the proposed legislation would allow owners to use their specialty plates for a period of seven years from the date of issuance, even if the specialty license plate program is discontinued during that period. If the program is discontinued, registration fees received thereafter would be deposited into the state highway account at ITD. **Senator Vick** stood for questions.
- MOTION:** With no questions or discussion, **Senator Nonini** moved to print **RS 21966C1**. **Senator Rice** seconded the motion. The motion carried by majority **voice vote**.
- RS 21837** **Senator Hagedorn** introduced **RS 21837**, which proposes an amendment to Idaho Code § 49-434 to allow Idaho-based trailer manufacturers to purchase trailer and semi-trailer registrations from ITD, and to allow annual registrations to foreign-based purchasers. **Senator Hagedorn** said the registration fee could be applied to a non-expiring registration if the customer acquires a title for the vehicle and applies for registration within one year. The proposed amendment lowers the non-expiring registration fee from \$105 to \$99. It was estimated there would be an ongoing net annual change of \$50,000. **Senator Hagedorn** stood for questions.
- Senator Nonini** asked if this was similar to legislation in the House two years ago. **Senator Hagedorn** said there was similar legislation that passed both the House and the Senate, and a national trailer plate is now permanent. There were no further questions.
- MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to print **RS 21837**. **Vice Chairman Johnson** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**.
- RS 22001** **Senator Rice** introduced **RS 22001**, which reduces the negative impact on businesses of long-term roadway construction projects. It requires that construction, maintenance and/or repair shall be performed around the clock (24-hours per day, Monday through Saturday) if a construction project prevents access to businesses for a period greater than seven days. It further discusses projects that diverts traffic more than 150 feet away from the normal access to the business. Access blockage can have a severe economic impact on local businesses. **Senator Rice** stood for questions.
- MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to print **RS 22001**. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous **voice vote**.
- RS 22016** **Chairman Brackett** welcomed John Watts of Veritas Advisors to the Committee and asked him to present **RS 22016**. **Mr. Watts** called attention to changes in paragraph two of **RS 22016**, proposed as a Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR). The basis for **RS 22016** came from **Mr. Watts'** previous legislation that had been heard and printed by the Committee, **SCR 111**. As stated in the Statement of Purpose, he said the proposed legislation creates a coordinated freight shipping plan throughout Idaho to further economic development and movement of goods. The legislation directs ITD, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Agriculture to work with transportation stakeholders to conduct a study of Idaho's freight transportation system, routes, facilities and future needs. In addition, the legislation requires an inventory be made of the present freight system, recommended linkages, coordination between ground, rail, water and air modalities, stakeholder collaboration and infrastructure development, along with funding recommendations. In short, it provides for pulling together a team and working out a process in order to do what is best for transportation in the state of Idaho. **Mr. Watts** stood for questions.

**Senator Hagedorn** thanked Mr. Watts for bringing the proposal back to the Committee with changes, but expressed concern with the paragraph beginning on line fifteen, page two, which he said would require a great many man-hours of record keeping. He wanted to know where the funding would come from. **Mr. Watts** said funds are available through the Ready-Fit Program and referenced a bill that had transferred money to ITD. He also stated he believed the Idaho Department of Agriculture had up to \$40,000 available for this type of study. **Senator Hagedorn** asked if this was a way to match a program to how available funds can be used. **Mr. Watts** said it was not. This is an effort to get the horse before the cart. Idaho needs the ability to point to a plan that will help Idaho business. There are funds available and there are efforts already moving forward. During a full hearing, the Idaho Department of Agriculture can answer questions about the financial impact.

**Senator Rice** asked which entities are not already at the table. He asked if ITD is being required to identify specific, as well as general shipping needs of every producer of commodities in the entire state. **Mr. Watts** said it is hoped that ITD will be able to get everyone to the table and actively involved. As for tracking, all types of shippers are needed to be involved, including ground, rail, water and air. He said ITD is accustomed to tracking things of this type. There were no further questions for Mr. Watts.

**MOTION:** **Senator Hagedorn** moved to send **RS 22016** to print and returned to the Committee. **Senator Keough** seconded the motion. The motion carried by a majority **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, **Chairman Brackett** adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

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Senator Brackett  
Chairman

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Gaye Bennett  
Secretary