

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Monday, February 10, 2014
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW40
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representative(s) Wood(35), Wills, Bateman, Henderson, Denney, Gestrin, Gibbs, Hixon, Kauffman, Packer, Youngblood, McDonald, Ringo, King, Gannon
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** none
- GUESTS:** Anna Canning, IDPR; Caitlin Rusche, IAC; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau; David Claiborne, ISATVA; Mike Kane, AAA; Dave Carlson, AAA; Julie Hart, Westerberg & Assoc.; Jerry Deckard, Capitol West
- Chairman Palmer** called the meeting to order 1:30 p.m.
- S 1227:** **Sen. Heider** presented **S 1227** to the committee and stated that it will be establishing a portion of interstate highway I-84 as the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway**. He remarked, this will be honoring veterans serving in Vietnam which includes 217 military personnel that never returned home to Idaho. He articulated the legislation will establish road signage designed to honor Vietnam veterans.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to send **S 1227** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Denney** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- RS 22753:** **Rep. Gestrin** explained the Statue, when originally created, did not bring into account heavier vehicles that could be used as a snowmobile and driven on groomed snowmobile trails. The newer vehicles are using track skis and are heavier than a snowmobile, he stated. We are changing the maximum weight from 1,000 to 2,000 lb. which will allow all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles to operate on groomed trails.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Bateman** made a motion to introduce **RS 22753.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 22633C1:** **Rep. Gestrin** stated he is bringing this RS forward at the request of the recreational community, specifically from a summer task force, which he served on at the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation (IDPR.) **Rep. Gestrin** explained the change removes the term registration and replaces it with the term number. He clarified the recreational sticker fee remains intact. The next area of correction, he said, will remove the seasonal registration, replacing it with a one-year registration and no proration clause. He concluded this change should bring \$50,000 into the recreational fund.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Wood(35)** made a motion to introduce **RS 22633C1.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 22805:** **Rep. Shepherd** provided information on **RS 22805.** This RS broadens the exemptions of weight and size limitations due to accumulated snow or mud to include other trucking industries.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Gestrin** made a motion to introduce **RS 22805.** **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Chairman Palmer** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman Shepherd.**

RS 22767C1: **Rep. Palmer** stated that everyone agrees that transportation needs more funding. He stated that he would like legislation to be introduced to stimulate discussion. Rep. Palmer admitted the bill does get confusing regarding the allocation of funding once two triggers are met. He explained that Idaho is one of a few states that does not give General Fund money to transportation, registration and fuel tax is the only funding. Rep. Palmer commented that this approach gently moves more money into transportation. There are two triggers that must be met prior to moving one-sixth of the sales tax raised to transportation. As the economy gets better the amount of funds will increase. He affirmed there are several things that must be addressed before this one-sixth goes into transportation. First the General Fund must be at \$2,909,847,700, this is where the General Fund was at its highest point before the recession, he said. Second, the amount of funding going toward education was also at its highest point prior to the recession, \$1,418,542,700, he stated. Rep. Palmer conveyed that as the economy grows, the obligations will still be met. Rep. Palmer affirmed that infrastructure is very important to the economy, and investing in roads will help the economy grow.

MOTION: **Rep. Hixon** made a motion to introduce **RS 22767C1**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Vice Chairman Shepherd turned to gavel over to **Chairman Palmer**.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Linda Mott
Secretary