

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 18, 2014

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: None

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.

CONVENED: **Chairman Brackett** called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and asked the secretary to take a silent roll. With a quorum present, **Chairman Brackett** welcomed Senator Goedde to the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) and asked him to present **S 1348**.

S 1348: **Senator Goedde** said that this bill extends a sunset clause for three years, until June 30, 2017, and requires the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) to provide an annual report on the progress their Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is making on updating their automated system. In 2003, the Legislature repealed an ITD reporting requirement that could no longer be fulfilled by their existing software. That requirement was statutorily reinstated in 2009 with a sunset for the requirement of June 30, 2014. The system improvements are still not able to do a cross-reference of information which is the reason for extending the requirement statutorily in **S 1348**. **Senator Goedde** said he would stand for questions, but there were none.

MOTION: **Senator Winder** moved to send **S 1348** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Keough** seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous **voice vote**. **Senator Goedde** said he would carry the bill on the Senate floor.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT: **Chairman Brackett** said the Committee would hold the Gubernatorial Appointment of Mark Sweeney of Lewiston to the Aeronautics Advisory Board until Vice Chairman Johnson, also from Lewiston and presenting legislation in another Committee, could return. He wanted to be present to welcome Mr. Sweeney.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO PRINT RS 22876 AND RS 22929: **Chairman Brackett** told the Committee there were two RSs before them today whose sponsors were requesting Unanimous Consent to have them printed by the Senate State Affairs Committee.

REQUEST: **Senator Nonini** asked for unanimous consent to send **RS 22876** to the Senate State Affairs Committee for printing. With no objection, the request was **approved**.

REQUEST: **Senator Winder** asked for unanimous consent to send **RS 22929** to the Senate State Affairs Committee for printing. With no objection, the request was **approved**.

S 1304: **Chairman Brackett** welcomed Ed Pemble of ITD to the Committee to present **S 1304**, the first of four bills he was to present at this meeting. **Mr. Pemble** said this bill is a portion of **S 1209** that had been rejected on the Senate floor as having too many varying components. The description of **S 1304** has not changed since the print hearing. It is a customer service-based bill and is not the result of federal requirements. Its primary points are: (1) more flexible time frames for presenting documentation for driver's training; (2) flexibility in authorization by parents or designated guardians; and (3) a reduced waiting period for retaking skills and knowledge tests from three business days to three calendar days. **Mr. Pemble** said there was no cost involved with these changes and stood for questions, but there were none.

MOTION: **Senator Keough** moved to send **S 1304** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Nonini** seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous **voice vote**. Vice Chairman Johnson was assigned to carry the bill on the Senate floor.

S 1305: **Mr. Pemble** said this bill is a portion of **S 1208** that had been rejected on the Senate floor as having too many varying components. **S 1305** satisfies federal requirements to change the definition of a tank vehicle and tank endorsements. There are advantages to the tank driver with the changes in this bill. There is no fiscal impact and no programming costs involved. **Mr. Pemble** said that he and Lt. Tim Horn of the Idaho State Police were available to answer any questions, but there were none.

MOTION: **Senator Keough** moved to send **S 1305** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous **voice vote**. Vice Chairman Johnson was assigned to carry the bill on the Senate floor.

S 1306: **Mr. Pemble** said this bill is a portion of **S 1208** that had been rejected on the Senate floor as having too many varying components. This bill deals with Commercial Learner's Permits. The primary points are: (1) changes in terminology; (2) additional requirements resulting in safer roads; and (3) individuals not having to live in Idaho permanently. Legally, the language is more stringent between the terms 'lawful' and 'legal' presence. If this bill does not become law there is a considerable fiscal impact to the State. **Mr. Pemble** said he would stand for questions, but there were none.

MOTION: **Senator Winder** moved to send **S 1306** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous **voice vote**. Senator Hagedorn was assigned to carry the bill on the Senate floor.

S 1307: **Mr. Pemble** said this bill is a portion of **S 1209** that had been rejected on the Senate floor as having too many varying components. This bill allows federal employees working abroad, and their immediate families, to get extensions on the expiration of their driver's license or identification card. **Mr. Pemble** said he would stand for questions.

Senator Nonini asked why ITD did not broaden this bill to provide this service to general citizens. **Mr. Pemble** said that doing that strains the costs involved, and there would be less of an impact.

Senator Winder wanted to know where the fee provision was located in the bill. **Mr. Pemble** directed him to cross-reference with Idaho Code § 49-306, on page 6. There were no further questions for **Mr. Pemble**.

MOTION:

Senator Winder moved to send **S 1307** to the Senate floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Rice** seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous **voice vote**. Senator Hagedorn was assigned to carry the bill on the Senate floor.

Senator Winder asked Mr. Pemble to provide the Committee with the number of civilian Idahoans this bill could affect. **Senator Bock** added that some federal employees could be outside Idaho for other reasons and would like a distinction between the situations, even those within the ranks. **Mr. Pemble** said he could get some information, but it would be an estimate because some employees do not have benefits allowing them to travel home.

GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENT:

Chairman Brackett welcomed Mike Pape, ITD's Administrator of the Idaho Division of Aeronautics, to the Committee and asked him to introduce Mr. Sweeney. **Mr. Pape** said there are five people who serve on the Aeronautics Advisory Board. He said that Mr. Sweeney is the son of a former legislator, Bruce Sweeney, and their family are long-time residents of Lewiston. Mr. Sweeney is a pilot and a consultant to flight operations. **Mr. Pape** said that he, personally, and the Aeronautics Advisory Board rely and depend on the great, professional advice Mr. Sweeney brings to the board. **Mr. Pape** said it was his pleasure to introduce Mr. Sweeney.

Chairman Brackett welcomed Mr. Sweeney to the Committee and asked him to share information about himself and what he brings to the Aeronautics Advisory Board.

Mr. Sweeney thanked the Chairman and the Committee and said that he has been flying since 1976. He is a licensed helicopter, multi-engine and single engine aircraft pilot. He works for Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories in Pullman, Washington. He is the only corporate pilot on the Aeronautics Advisory Board, but several of the members have experience. He has not been a commercial airline pilot. He said there are many airstrips, including those in the remote backcountry, in Idaho that need to be protected. He has a passion to protect those assets. **Mr. Sweeney** said he would be happy to stand for any questions.

Senator Bock asked what Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories does and how that relates to this position. **Mr. Sweeney** said that Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories makes electric power safer, more reliable, and more economical by designing, manufacturing, and supporting a complete line of products and services that range from generator and transmission protection to distribution automation and control systems. Beside their corporate headquarters in Pullman, they have a plant in Lewiston and offices in Boise, Chicago and Mexico. He flies their corporate aircraft that shuttles their people to these and other locations. **Senator Bock** asked how many employees they have in Idaho. **Mr. Sweeney** said there are 3,500 employees company-wide, with 2,000 of them working in Pullman, but he did not know how many work or live in Idaho.

Vice Chairman Johnson said that Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories contributes to Idaho's economy in many ways. **Vice Chairman Johnson** said he has known Mr. Sweeney for many years and knows his abilities well. The company he works for has very high standards and expectations of their employees. **Vice Chairman Johnson** said he had full confidence in Mr. Sweeney's abilities and qualifications to be on the Aeronautics Advisory Board. There were no further questions or comments.

Chairman Brackett thanked Mr. Sweeney for his willingness to serve and explained that the Committee would not vote on his nomination today, but the vote would be scheduled for a future meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Sweeney stated that it was a privilege to be before the Committee.

ADJOURNED:

With no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Brackett** adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Senator Brackett
Chair

Gaye Bennett
Secretary