

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 04, 2016

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Wills, Bateman, Gestrin, Hixon, Kauffman, Packer, Youngblood, McDonald, Dixon, Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, King, Rudolph, Wintrow

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Matt Reiber, Intern; Kathie Garrett, NAMI Idaho; Alex Copple, NAMI Idaho; Tracy Warren; Chrstina Pisani, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities; Mel Leviton, SICC; Anne Shoup, NAMI Boise; Barbara Valdez, NAMI Boise; Jim Baugh, Disability Rights; Bonnie Markham, Idaho Council on Disabilities; Toni Brinegar, ICDD; Jill Woolsey, Clearwater Community Foundation; Lee Woolsey; Cindy Sholton, IFFCMH; Steve Graci, IFFCMH; Nick Stout, Governor; Fred Swanstrum, Boise State Student

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

RS 24367: **Sandra Mitchell** presented the **RS 24367** regarding vintage snowmobiles. The purpose of the proposed legislation is to exempt vintage snowmobiles 25 years or older from the requirement of having to purchase and display a snowmobile sticker. She introduced the functions of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation. She stated the snowmobile category is about .01 percent of the total registered for Fiscal Year 2015.

MOTION: **Rep. Gestrin** made a motion to introduce **RS 24367**. **Motion carried by voice.**

In answering a question regarding the 664 total, **Ms. Mitchell** stated this number reflects the number of registered snowmobiles.

H 413: **Jill Woolsey**, Clearwater Community Foundation, presented **H 413**. She explained the financial limitations for the Orofino community. She highlighted some projects that have been implemented to benefit the citizens in Orofino. She expressed her concern regarding the financial statement of the school district. She stated the purpose of this bill is to allow the citizens of the community to purchase special plates to benefit Orofino School District and those who live in Orofino. The funds deposited into this account will be distributed throughout the school district for special programs, leadership programs, and supplies, just to name a few, for Orofino students. She stated the funds available for programs throughout Orofino School District is very limited. She discussed the demand for resources to increase the funds available in the Orofino School District. She went on to talk about the history behind the mascot and the importance of the mascot.

Kathie Garrett, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), she stated the mission statement of the Alliance. She said NAMI opposes this bill due to the mascot symbol. She referred to the google definition of the word maniac. She provided the population of citizens in Idaho with mental illness. She stated the maniac symbol is offensive to those with mental illness.

Alex Copple, Vice President of NAMI Boise, stated the purpose of the agency. He provided a quick synopsis of what mental illness means to him. He emphasized the stigma behind mental illness. In addition, he said the mascot can reflect a negative impact with a possible correlation between the maniac image and mental health diagnosis.

Tracy Warren, Idaho citizen, she informed the committee members of her long history of being an Idahoan. She defined the word maniac. She informed the committee members about her history relating to mascots. In addition, she stated there is a stigma about mental illness. She stated her opinion about the maniac image being offensive to others.

Chrstina Pisani, Council of Developmental of Disabilities, she emphasized the purpose and mission statement for the Council of Developmental Disabilities. She stated the population number for those with mental health disabilities. Due to those statistics, there needs to be measures taken to protect those with mental health disabilities. She said she finds this maniac symbol to be offensive.

Mel Leviton, Director of State Independent Council, explained to the committee members the purpose of the council. The funds for the State Independent Council come from two resources; federal and state. She agreed that there are many ways to define the word maniac. She explained the history behind the Orofino mascot and reminded the committee members about the purpose of this bill.

Jim Baugh, Executive Director of Disability Rights Idaho, gave the mission statement of the organization. He stated this bill will impact the image of the State of Idaho during the year 2016. He correlated the cause and effect of the stigma about mental illness. He questioned the use of this image and this term knowing what the effect might be on the stigma of mental illness.

In answer to the question if this was the first school to use this kind of funding source. **Jill Woolsey** said this is the first school to use this funding source, she said the mascot is a symbol for positive growth and positive things for their community.

MOTION:

Rep. Gestrin made a motion to send **H 413** to the floor without recommendation.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. King made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 413** in the committee.

Rep. Wintrow spoke in support of the substitute motion. She thanked those who have testified. She stated there is a need to listen to their concerns about stigma. She stated there is a need for funding sources for rural school districts such as these, but did not support raising funds through this type of bill.

Rep. Harris spoke in support of the substitute motion.

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION:

Rep. Wills made an amended substitute motion to send **H 413** to General Orders.

Rep. Bateman spoke in support of the General Orders motion and stated there are many ways to interrupt the word maniac.

Rep. McDonald stated he supports the substitute motion due to an issue with 144 school districts applying for their own special plate.

Rep. Monks spoke in support of the amended substitute motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Rep. King requested a roll call vote. **Motion carried by a vote of 11 AYE, 6 NAY.** Voting in favor of the motion: **Rep. Shepherd, Wills, Bateman, Gestrin, Hixon, Kauffman, Youngblood, Holtzclaw, Monks, Rudolph, and Chairman Palmer.** Voting in opposition to the motion: **Rep. Packer, McDonald, Dixon, Harris, King, and Wintrow.** **Rep. Shepherd** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Vicky Davies
Secretary