

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 16, 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; Monte Bollon, Grand Lodge; Crista Worthy, Idaho Aviation Foundation; Wayne Foster, Masonic Grand Lodge; Larry Taylor, Idaho Aviation Foundation; Joe Corlett, Idaho Aviation Foundation; Alan Frew, Idaho Transportation Department; Blake Rindlisbacher, Idaho Transportation Department; Laura Lantz, IAHD; Reymundo Rodriguez, Idaho Transportation Department; Mike Kane, AAA; David Claiborne, IRC; Cynthia Gibson, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance; David Guiotto, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance; Dennis Tanikuni, Idaho Farm Bureau

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

S 1229: **Senator Bert Brackett** presented **S 1229**. This legislation aligns the state law, Idaho Code 49-1004B, with federal legislation passed in congress in December of 2015. As a result, the legislation returns power to the states. He stated this legislation allows 129,000 gross weight trucks on selected routes as authorized by the jurisdiction that has the authority over that route. He expressed his gratitude to the congressional delegations especially **Congressman Simpson**. He discussed the congressional process to amend the federal law to set a maximum weight of 129,000 pound trucks. As a result, he stated this bill has support from the truck coalition. Then, he stated the studies proved that 129,000 pound trucks are safe on highways, bridges and pavement. In conclusion, he said this legislation will add to the Idaho Code to include a section to allow up to maximum of 129,000 pound trucks to drive on Idaho systems.

In answer to committee questions, **Senator Brackett** stated the code was established in 2013 which included all segments of the highway system. The committee has the authority to change the highway routes of the bill.

MOTION: **Rep. Wills** made a motion to send **S 1229** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Packer spoke **in support** of the motion. She discussed the local jurisdiction.

Rep. McDonald spoke **in support** of the motion. Currently, there are special permits being issued to travel into the Boise area.

Mike Kane, AAA, spoke **in support** to the bill. He stated this legislation will still be under negotiated rule with others in the department.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. King** made a substitute motion to send **S 1229** to General Orders. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Wintrow** and **Rep. King** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Chairman Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 472: **Rep. Troy**, presented **H 472** to the committee. She addressed the committee on behalf of the citizens in her community. She expressed her gratitude to the Idaho Transportation Department for their assistance with this bill. This legislation allows owners of commercial trucks to retain their current license plate or request another number.

MOTION: **Rep. Rudolph** made a motion to send **H 472** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Troy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 444: **David Claiborne**, Idaho Recreation Council, presented **H 444** regarding the vintage snowmobiles on behalf of the Idaho State Snowmobile Association. The purpose of this legislation allows vintage snowmobiles at least 25 years old to be exempt to purchase the sticker. He provided the committee members with the snowmobile statistics. In conclusion, he informed the committee that snowmobiles 25 years old are about 1% the total amount of stickers purchased in the snowmobiles category.

In answer to committee question, **Mr. Claiborne** stated 25 year old snowmobiles are considered to fall in the non-operative category. Therefore, these snowmobiles should be exempt from the requirement of purchasing a sticker. In addition, he stated approximately 20,000 dollars would be subtracted from this program, less than 2% percent. He stated if the vehicle is off the road. there is no need to purchase a sticker. He announced that each owner has a responsibility to show age of the snowmobile, if questioned by a police officer.

MOTION: **Rep. Bateman** made a motion to send **H 444** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. McDonald, Harris, Monks, Holtzclaw, Packer, Wintrow**, and **Rudolph** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Chairman Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 457: **Rep. Gestrin** presented **H 457** regarding specialty plates. This legislation will decrease the minimum requirements for specialty license plates from 1,000 to 500. He summarized the speciality license plate program along with the requirements. There are other programs that have fallen below the threshold of 1,000. He reviewed the fund distribution of the specialty plates which has positive impact on the fiscal note.

In answer to a committee question, **Rep. Gestrin** stated the retroactive date will save a couple of organizations.

Crista Worthy, Idaho Aviation Foundation (IAF), stated that aviation is critical to the state of Idaho due to the back country. In fact, Idaho has the most back country air stripes in the US other than Alaska. She said this organization falls below the 1,000 threshold due to 50% of the members are from out-of-state. In addition, she summarized the IAF funding projects which benefit the Aviation Industry and the state of Idaho. Ms. Worthy spoke **in support** of this legislation.

Greg Winther, Idaho Freemason Foundation (IFF) spoke **in support** of this legislation. He stated the purpose of this bill is to contribute to charitable programs. In fact, he stated some of the programs have gone through the legislative process. He stated the foundation mission as a 501C3 is to provide safety and education and well-being of children. He stated the foundation allocates funds to benefit the education of children such as Child Identification Packets, Bikes for Books, and match scholarships. In addition, he explained Idaho history pertaining to IFF. He announced the special plate programs benefits the community in many ways.

In answer to committee question, **Mr. Winther** stated the proper question for ITD is " How many plates are on the road?" due to the sticker renewal every two years. The plates on the road for IFF was 759 plates at the end of the 2014.

Joe Corlett, Idaho Aviation Foundation Board of Directors, spoke in support of the **H 457**. He announced to the committee that IAFBD has about 5,059 aviators in the state of Idaho ranging from students to flight instructors. He stated the foundation is classified as a 501C3 foundation. He summarized the Big Creek Lodge project and Wilderness Within Reach program. In conclusion, he stated this legislation will preserve some of the programs that might fall below the 1,000 but still benefit the community.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to send **H 457** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Packer, Monks, and Harris** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Gestrin** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Amy Smith, Idaho Transportation Department, projected the next two years of special plates that might be canceled due to the 1000 limit.

In answer to committee questions, **Chairman Palmer** stated if requirements are met then organizations and/or groups can request to have a specialty plate.

H 471: **Rep. Gestrin** presented **H 471**. He stated this legislation consolidates two penalty provisions and amends an infraction fine. He summarized the penalty provisions. In addition, this legislation repeals the penalty provision of Section 18 111 pertaining to penalty up to 300 dollars. In addition, the off-road motor vehicle fund can be utilized to purchase long-term licenses and public easements for recreational off-highway vehicle activity. He stated a short-term easement is a license to travel on owner property but not concurrent with the land. Also, he stated law enforcement personal can enforce the rules adopted by the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation for OHV and snowmobiles recreation.

In answer to a committee question, **Rep. Gestrin** summarized the legislation process assists with organization to enforce their rules.

MOTION: **Rep. Packer** made a motion to send **H 471** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Gestrin** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Vicky Davies
Secretary