

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2016

TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon adjournment of floor session

PLACE: Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Rep. Harris

GUESTS: John Barsness, ITD; Jeff Miles, LHTAC; Matt Reiber, Intern; Dan Schaeffer, LHTAC; Bob Compan, Farmers Insurance; Phil Barber, American Insurance Association; Diana L Thomas, City of Weiser; Caitlin Rusche, IAC Counties; Alan Frew, ITD; Carlie Foster, Lobby Idaho; Woody Richards, Insurance Company

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

Robert Compan, Farmers insurance company, presented **S 1283** regarding under insured motorizes and companies failing to comply with Idaho online insurance verification system. He summarized the history and purpose of the Insurance Industry Committee on Motor Vehicle Administration (IICMVA). The IICMVA created the Idaho online insurance verification system which was implemented in 2012. As a result, this IICMVA model has been adapted by other states. The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) and Idaho Department of Insurance took measures to clarify and enhance the system in two ways; add company codes associated with each vehicle to list factors to confirm insurance coverage and eliminate some unnecessary language in Section 49-1234, Idaho Code. In addition, he announced that insurance companies are required to comply; otherwise, administrative penalties will occur. As a result, this will increase accuracy of the "real time" online insurance system data while following security measures which Idaho Transportation Department and Law Enforcement agencies access.

Allen Frew, Idaho Transportation Department, spoke **in support** of this legislation. This legislation updates the penalty noncompliance section.

In answer to committee questions, **Mr. Frew** stated there is no fiscal impact.

MOTION: **Rep. McDonald** made a motion to send **S 1283** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Hixon** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 559: **Rep. Monks** presented **H 559** regarding the elimination of the states role in setting costs for commercial driver license skills test and technical changes. Currently, the Idaho Transportation Department is responsible for the CDL skills test account. In addition, he summarized the CDL skills test fund apportionment.

However, this legislation will eliminate Idaho Transportation Department's role with fund allocation to the third party CDL skills test organization. In addition, this legislation removes the two sections pertaining to the skills test fee amount of \$60.00. He discussed the competitive factors for the free market to be functional. He stated there is about 75 different companies that provide CDL skills test services. Furthermore, this legislation allows for the CDL skills test organizations to establish CDL skills test fees which will motivate companies and/or individuals to provide this service, free market process. He explained the free market process.

In answer to committee questions, **Rep. Monks** announced that the CDL skills test fee should be reasonable and implemented throughout Idaho. In addition, he reviewed the benefits of the free market process for the citizens throughout the State of Idaho which also benefits both the consumer and business owner.

John Barsness, Idaho Transportation Department, addressed the CDL Skills Test program. The CDL skills tests are performed by third party contractors which are recruited and trained by Idaho Transportation Department (ITD). He discussed the requirements to become a third party CDL Skills Test Examiner approved by Federal Motor Carrier and American Automobile Motor Vehicle Administrator. He stated the examiners pay their associated costs to obtain their certification. He informed the committee members that ITD monitors CSTEM system information and audits the third party examiners. Lastly, ITD can produce a CDL Skills Test report which will list organizations that perform the CDL Skills Test with each site cost.

In answer to committee questions, **Mr. Barsness** stated the demand for the CDL Skills Tests fluctuate by Region. He stated either a fixed fee or open market approach would be acceptable for this program. In addition, Mr. Barsness announced to committee members that the current demand is being met by examiners.

Rep. Wills spoke in opposition of this bill. However, he suggested an amending order for this bill.

MOTION:

Rep. Dixon made a motion to send **H 559** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

Jeff Miles, Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC), presented the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council Annual Report. He stated the Council provides services to advocate, support and train in 192 cities, 33 counties, and 64 highway districts for roadway or street responsibilities. He summarized the history of the Council from 1994 (LHTAC Formation) to 2014 (20 years). He highlighted the \$6.4 Million base budget for Fiscal Year 2016 to include each category; HDA, Local Rural Highway Investment Program (LRHIP), Federal Aid Administration Costs, T2 Center, and Small Programs. In addition, he stated the Stewardship Agreement describes the duties that have been delegated to LHTAC by ITD, account funds are administered by ITD. He stated the LHTAC advocates for the local jurisdictions for the Western Federal Lands Program, Idaho Standard Public Works Construction (ISPWC), and Technical Assistance or Voting Members.

He summarized the FY15 Federal-Aid Program Apportionment fund account of \$30,853,000, administered by Idaho Transportation Department. In addition, he discussed the Federal-Aid Design STP Rural, STP Urban, and Bridge which was assigned to LHTAC in 2009. Furthermore, he summarized the Federal-Aid Construction projects and the bidding process. He discussed the Local Rural Highway Investment Program (LRHIP) and the Local Highway Safety Improvement Program (LHSIP).

He stated LHTAC provides training and technical assistance to all local highway jurisdictions throughout Idaho through the T2 Training Center established in 2009. The T2 Training Center is a member of the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and Tribal Technical Assistance Program National Network to utilize the nationwide networking and resources. The T2 Training Center receives funds from Federal grants and matched by Idaho and STP Rural funds. The T2 center has increased to over 1,982 class attendees in FY15.

The LHTAC joined partnership with Idaho Transportation Department, Association of Cities, Association of Counties, and Highway Districts to coordinate the response to **H 312** which was provided to the committee in January 2016. In

addition, the agency enhanced the communication measures by progress status reports, order and claims logs, project evaluations, web based project status maps and 360 improvement surveys. Our goal is to be accountable to our sponsors, partner agencies and legislature so accountability measures are posted online. Furthermore, LHTAC received the Innovation Idea Award in 2015.

In conclusion, he stated LHTAC is here for the local jurisdictions to ADVOCATE, SUPPORT, AND TRAIN.

In answer to committee questions, **Mr. Miles** compared the ITD base amount of expenditures with their base budget.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Vicky Davies
Secretary