

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 09, 2017

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Loertscher, Vice Chairman Monks, Representatives Luker, Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Harris, Armstrong, Giddings, Manwaring, Zito, Scott, Smith, Jordan

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives Crane and Palmer.

GUESTS: Warren Wing, DBS; Tracey Shaner and Debbie Spence, IDVS; John Eaton, Realtors.

Chairman Loertscher called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

SCR 109: **Rep. Maxine Bell** presented **SCR 109**, which honors **Cathy Holland-Smith**, Manager of the Division of Budget and Policy Analysis of the Legislative Services Office, who is retiring after many years of service. Rep. Bell noted the resolution's fiscal note, which represents well Mrs. Holland-Smith's work.

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** said Mrs. Holland-Smith was a wonderful example of education and helped him through the process when he served on the Appropriations Committee. He made a motion to send **SCR 109** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Bell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1031: **Tracy Schaner**, Deputy Administrator, Division of Veterans Services, presented **S 1031**. This bill is a request to change the current payment voucher system to a payment authorization program. It also allows those wheelchair-confined veterans who have no other available means of transportation to have transportation that meets basic needs and necessities. If the amendment is approved, the division would like to reevaluate the bill's fiscal impact based on the demand for the services.

MOTION: **Rep. Scott** made a motion to send **S 1031** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to comments on the bill's fiscal impact, **Ms. Schaner** said the Division would like to piggyback it off of the Department of Transportation's grant program. They would do an analysis to see what funds are needed for future fiscal years. Then they would request appropriations through the Joint Financial Appropriations Committee.

Ms. Schaner clarified that the vehicles used for transportation could be buses or it could be individual vans with wheelchair lifting capabilities. The service would be door-to-door and not like a bus stop. This is not creating an industry, as the Department of Transportation already partners with services.

Rep. Giddings asked why the Division could not assess the demand for this service. **Ms. Schaner** replied they have not been able to locate those statistical numbers for wheelchair-bound veterans. Rep. Giddings said her concern is with the origin of the proposal, as the quantity of the current need is not understood. She asked what neighboring states are doing. Ms. Schaner said the intent of the bill is to use limited funds and it would not exceed the \$30K set aside for the statute. As for other states, the logistics are different based on Veteran Affairs transportation. The data is pretty limited because it is a new program.

In response to questions, **Ms. Schaner** clarified the state is having to absorb the responsibility of this transportation issue because it is the middle man and has administrative responsibilities. It is a circuitous process. Under the current statute, the voucher is passed through many hands and there is a lot of back and forth. **Rep. Giddings** asked what the determining factor was for the state paying versus the federal government paying. Ms. Schaner said the statute is already written; the first priority is federal and when a veteran is not eligible, or needs are not meant, then it goes through the state.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Chairman Loertscher called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1031** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Scott** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1047:

Sen. Nonini presented **S 1047**, to make an amendment by adding 682.10 of the National Electrical Code section to the legislation passed in 2016. Without section .10 added, all of 682 was excluded in code. The issue last year was when pumps were used in bodies of water for irrigation and domestic water, there needed to be time to put wells in and address the issue. There is a sunset date for March of 2018; after this date, compliance with the National Electrical Code will be in effect.

In response to questions from the committee, **Warren Wing**, Electrical Program Manager, Idaho Division of Public Safety, clarified that .01 through .03 of 682 are still in application. Of 682, .01 covers the scope of the article, .02 covers definition of terms, and .03 covers other articles: if boat traffic occurs in waters, then other codes are involved.

In response to whether or not the sunset date was long enough, **Sen. Nonini** said he hopes so, but there is no guarantee. Pump installers and residents who have used it know of the sunset date.

MOTION:

Rep. Barbieri made a motion to send **S 1047** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Barbieri** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:31 A.M.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Shelby Winkel
Secretary