

MINUTES  
**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Friday, February 16, 2018

**TIME:** Upon Adjournment of the House

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Gestrin, Kauffman, Packer, Youngblood, McDonald, Dixon, Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, DeMordaunt, Syme, Blanksma, King, Wintrow, Gannon

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Rep. Wintrow

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Palmer** called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

**H 506:** **Rep. Boyle** presented **H 506**. Rep. Boyle stated this legislation directs the Idaho Department of Transportation to continue its normal practice of titling and registering surplus military vehicles. This legislation amends and adds a new Section 49-458 to the Idaho Code, which states that a military vehicle may be registered and operated on Idaho public highways. Rep. Boyle explained that without this new legislation, the Idaho Department of Transportation will no longer title and register surplus military vehicles.

**Alex Gordon**, Idaho Motor Pool, Inc., Fruitland, testified **in support** of **H 506**. Mr. Gordon stated that Idaho needs to continue to title and register surplus military vehicles, because in Idaho it is illegal to sell a motor vehicle without a title. Also, owners of motor vehicles cannot ship vehicles out of the country without a title. Mr. Gordon further stated that his customers require titles for proof of ownership to use as collateral for operating loans.

**Robert Walsh**, Flex North LLC, testified **in support** of **H 506**. Mr. Walsh stated that he has used military vehicles in his business for many years. These vehicles represent a great value for users and also provides an opportunity for the government to recover taxpayer dollars. He also stated that the federal government has been selling these vehicles to the public for over 70 years. Mr. Walsh stated he uses dump trucks for construction and a water tanker for fire suppression to rural acreage. He further stated that Valley County and many other counties operate these same types of trucks for rural fire departments throughout Idaho and across the nation.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 506** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 511:**

**Rep. Harris** presented **H 511**. Rep. Harris stated that the centennial license plate was given to the Idaho Heritage Foundation to act as a trust or endowment for fund-raising purposes. This legislation seeks to remove the license plate fee designated to the Idaho Heritage Trust. It also removes reference to the fifty cents (50¢) per plate fee for the use of the copyrighted centennial design on license plates. The income earned from the sale of these license plates is placed into the Trust. These funds earn interest quarterly, and only the interest earned may be used for these projects. Rep. Harris stated that because the Idaho Heritage Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, such arrangements are best made through normal contractual arrangements and not by statute. Rep. Harris further stated that the Idaho Heritage Trust currently has such an agreement in place allowing the use of the "centennial" design for license plates.

**Tamara Cikaitoga**, Fremont County, testified **in opposition** to **H 511**. Ms. Cikaitoga stated that she was given a historical cabin in 2006. She has utilized funds from the Idaho Heritage Trust to help her with obtaining advice, technical assistance, and preserving historical projects. Ms. Cikaitoga stated she has nowhere else to turn for help. She also stated she is confused as to why this legislation is necessary, since nothing is broken and this Fund benefits all Idahoans.

**Sharon McConnell**, President/Grant Writer, Sweet-Montour Syringa Club, and on behalf of the Sweet United Methodist Church. Ms. McConnell testified **in opposition** to **H 511** because of its impact on the Idaho Heritage Trust. The Sweet-Montour Syringa Club owns a unique 120-year-old building called the Syringa Hall that has been in continual use since 1910. The Syringa Club purchased this building in 1991. Because the building was so important to the community, many people contributed their own money to make the purchase of this building possible. Since then, the Syringa Hall has been used for all general elections, dances, family gatherings, and fundraisers. The Syringa Club has maintained the stewardship of the Syringa Hall and its grounds. The Club has consulted with the Idaho Heritage Trust to maintain the historical integrity of the building. Ms. McConnell stated the Trust's professional expertise has been invaluable. Four years ago when structural problems became evident, the Idaho Heritage Trust referred the Syringa Club to an architectural engineer who made sure that when the Club replaced a compromised attic and roof system it was done correctly. The Idaho Heritage Foundation not only provided guidance, but it also provided several grants for the construction. None of these projects could have been accomplished without the assistance of the Idaho Heritage Trust.

**Ms. McConnell** stated the Sweet United Methodist Church is another historic building that has received assistance from the Idaho Heritage Trust. Since the Church opened in 1905, it has never stopped holding services. When the congregation sought to be listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, the Idaho Heritage Trust was there to provide assistance. Ms. McConnell said there are many future projects in upper Gem County for which the Syringa Club will need professional guidance. Ms. McConnell said she hopes the Idaho Heritage Trust will be there in the future to help preserve and restore Idaho's valuable historic treasures.

**Stacey Clark**, Emanuel Episcopal Church, testified **in opposition** to **H 511**. Ms. Clark stated that Emanuel Episcopal Church was built in 1885 prior to Idaho becoming a state, and it is the oldest church in Idaho. When the Church needed help restoring sixteen (16) unique, stained-glass windows, the Idaho Heritage Trust provided grants to do this work. The Idaho Heritage Trust not only provided the funds, but it also provided the technical expertise that was needed. In the future, the Church would like to restore its interior and many other projects. Ms. Clark stated that without the Idaho Heritage Foundation, our heritage would be lost and grants would disappear.

**Cleo Thompson**, Payette, testified in **opposition** to **H 511**. Mr. Thompson stated that Payette competes with Oregon, and Idaho competes with the world. He also stated that we need to preserve historic places in Idaho.

**Patty Miller**, Basque Museum & Cultural Center, testified in **opposition** to **H 511**. Ms. Miller stated the Basque Museum & Cultural Center is the only one in the United States. It was built one year after Idaho became a state. Ms. Miller also stated that these old buildings need constant maintenance, and we need to keep these buildings alive for tourists and communities.

After discussion by the committee, **John Taylor**, Idaho Heritage Trust, stated the Idaho Heritage Trust owns the centennial design trademark. He also stated that the statute has more authority than a contract. He also stated that if the fifty cents (50¢) per plate is removed from statute, it will terminate the use of the license plate design. Mr. Taylor also stated that if the committee wants to change this legislation, they should contact the Idaho Heritage Trust for its input.

**Julie Ingram**, Director, Shoshone So. Idaho Rural Development, testified in **opposition** to **H 511**. Ms. Ingram stated that restoration of historical buildings helps attract people and potential business to Idaho. Ms. Ingram further stated that restoration is important because these historic buildings are the heartbeats of our communities.

**ORIGINAL  
MOTION:**

**Rep. Packer** made a motion to **HOLD H 511** in committee.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

**Rep. Monks** made a substitute motion to send **H 511** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE:**

**Rep. Packer** requested a roll call vote on **H 511**. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 6 AYE and 10 NAY. Voting in support** of the motion: **Reps. Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, DeMordaunt, Blanksma, and Chairman Palmer. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Shepherd, Gestrin, Kauffman, Packer, Youngblood, McDonald, Dixon, Syme, King, and Gannon. Rep. Wintrow was absent/excused.**

**VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

**Original motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no more business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

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Representative Palmer  
Chair

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Kimberly Lowder  
Secretary