

MINUTES
SENATE JUDICIARY & RULES COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 20, 2018

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room WW54

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lodge, Vice Chairman Lee, Senators Hagedorn, Lakey, Anthon, Foreman, Potts, Nye

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Burgoyne and Senator Nye

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Lodge** called the Judiciary & Rules Committee (Committee) to order at 9:01 am.

PAGE GRADUATION Committee page **Isaac Meyer** spoke regarding his experience at the Committee as well as his future travel plans while in his first semester at Northwest Nazarene University. **Chairman Lodge** commended **Mr. Meyer** on his wonderful, positive attitude throughout his service on the Committee.

H 599 **Relating to Driving Without Privileges.** **Senator Johnson** presented **H 599**, which would lower the penalty for several driving-related infractions. This bill would remove 7,000 misdemeanor cases from the criminal justice system per year and allow for reinstatement of drivers licenses when the only reason for revocation was non-payment. This would save expenses related to prosecution and public defense over \$9 million per year.

DISCUSSION: **Representative Chaney**, District 10, stated the fiscal note on this bill was changed from the bill introduced previously in the House. He described the infractions this bill would reclassify.

Vice Chairman Lee questioned what would happen in situations regarding failure to pay for liability insurance. **Representative Chaney** responded the changes would not affect those situations and those suspended for not carrying liability insurance would continue to be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Vice Chairman Lee questioned how people will be incentivized to pay their fines. **Representative Chaney** replied the current approach is not holding individuals accountable and this would do more to obtain a higher remittance rate.

Senator Lakey questioned whether the counties have taken any position on this bill. **Representative Chaney** responded the counties would abstain from taking a position. **Senator Lakey** asked about eliminated language and why it was omitted. **Representative Chaney** elaborated on the violations and clarified for which violations prison time would be imposed.

Vice Chairman Lee questioned why the \$25 fee for anyone whose license was suspended before July 1, 2018 was waived. **Representative Chaney** replied it would incentivize people to catch up with their payments.

MOTION: **Senator Foreman** moved to send **H 599** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Vice Chairman Lee** seconded. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Johnson will carry the bill to the floor.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business, **Chairman Lodge** adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

Senator Lodge
Chair

Anna Wroblewski-Jones
Secretary

Samuel Griffin
Assistant Secretary