

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 12, 2019

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representatives Gestrin, Kauffman, Youngblood, Dixon, Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, DeMordaunt (Call), Syme, Blanksma, Addis, Ricks, Wintrow, Gannon, Davis, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Monks

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained with the minutes 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 1:29 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Addis** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2019, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 105: **Hy Kloc**, former state representative presented **H 105**, legislation to create a pet friendly license plate. He said proceeds from the sale of the license plates will assist low-income Idaho families with the cost of spaying or neutering their pets. The program will be administered by the Idaho Humane Society. Idaho Transportation Department will receive money from the sale of each plate to offset the cost of the program.

Speaking **in support** of **H 105** were **Darlene Junghans**, **Millie Reddig** and **Anne Kunkel**. Ms. Reddig said she did the artwork for the license plate and funding cat rescue has given her painting meaning. She said she personally has paid to neuter over 200 feral cats in her neighborhood.

Jeff Rosenthal, CEO, Idaho Humane Society, spoke **in support** of the bill. He said the Society has a business plan for the use of the funds collected from the pet friendly license plate. They have the infrastructure to handle the distribution of the funds from a restricted account. He added, Boise/Ada county has the lowest animal control cost in the country. In answer to committee questions, he said there are 25 to 26 animal shelters throughout the state. The money will be distributed among them according to need. Medical records will be provided as proof of service.

MOTION: **Rep. Wintrow** made a motion to send **H 105** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Moyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Chairman Palmer passed the gavel to **Vice Chairman Shepherd** at 1:47 p.m.

H 88: **Chairman Palmer** presented **H 88**. He said the purpose of this legislation is to transition Idaho State Police's funding component they receive from gas tax to the General Fund. This bill will change the apportionment of the Highway Distribution Account beginning in 2021. The ISP apportionment of the Highway Distribution Account will be reduced by 1% percent per year until 2025 when their apportionment will be 0%.

In answer to committee questions, **Chairman Palmer** said currently the portion of funds the Idaho State Police receives from the gas tax can only be used for specific purposes. It requires significant effort from the ISP to ensure those funds are spent appropriately by transitioning the money from a dedicated source to the General Fund. With passage of this bill, the ISP can present their budget request to the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee. They will be unencumbered in how they choose to allocate all of their funds.

Speaking **in support** of the legislation were **Jeremy Chew**, ACEC and **Bryan Foote**, transportation engineer. They agreed diverting the gas tax money back into transportation over time is a thoughtful and prudent approach to solving some of the problems created with additional population growth in the state.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 88** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Rep. Rubel asked **Chairman Palmer** if he had received feedback from Idaho State Police. He replied he could not speak for them.

Rep. Youngblood, Chairman of JFAC, spoke **in support** of the bill and assured the committee JFAC will take care of ISP. He said there is a need for more money for roads and the transition for ISP will take place over a period of five years. **Rep. Youngblood declared Rule 38** stating he is a highway district commissioner.

Rep. Syme reported he had met with the director of the Idaho State Police and they are neutral on the matter.

Rep. Gannon spoke **in opposition** to the motion. He expressed concerns relative to decreased funding for ISP when so much money has already gone to transportation through Garvey Bonds, General Fund, and raises in fuel tax and registration fees. He said ISP hasn't been able to offer competitive salaries to keep up with inflation and other concerns that accompany the rise in population.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Vice Chairman Shepherd** called for a vote on the motion to send **H 88** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.. **Motion carried by voice vote.** Representatives **Wintrow**, **Rubel**, **Gannon** and **Davis** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Chairman Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Vice Chairman Shepherd handed the gavel back to **Chairman Palmer** at 2:04 p.m.

Chairman Palmer invited the committee to attend a demonstration of electric bicycles on the front steps of the capital tomorrow at noon.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Joyce McKenzie
Secretary