

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Lodge, Rice, Burtenshaw, Buckner-Webb, and Nelson

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

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: With a quorum present, **Chairman Brackett** convened the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) at 1:34 p.m. He welcomed Tom Kealey, Director of the Idaho Department of Commerce, for his presentation, Governor's Task Force on Broadband: Broadband Access in Idaho.

PRESENTATION: **Director Kealey** began by recognizing Vice Chairman Crabtree and Senator Nelson who served on the Governor's Task Force on Broadband, which was made up of 38 people representing the geographic and professional diversity of Idaho. The task force met four times to discuss linking rural Idaho to the global marketplace. This is important because people need access to affordable broadband access. Its an urgent priority in all corners of the state. He concluded by listing the next steps for the Idaho Department of Commerce, which will continue to lead the effort of the Idaho Broadband Plan: 1.) engage Idaho Legislators; 2.) establish smaller, regional working groups; 3.) focus on federal grants and loans; and 4.) focus on a comprehensive plan for North Central Idaho. (see attachment 1)

DISCUSSION: **Vice Chairman Crabtree** stressed that North Central Idaho needed to be a high priority and asked how quickly the objectives could be established. **Director Kealey** said they are working with cities around the state, with more structure to come after the budget year begins.

Senator Den Hartog asked what did federal grants cover. **Director Kealey** laid out the plan for responding to requests for proposals (RFPs) with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the World Connect organization that works directly with local community leaders, among other sources. Successful grants and loans from various sources will be distributed through the task force.

H 332 **Brian Goeke**, the Idaho Transportation Department's (ITD) Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Policy Manager, introduced **H 332** by stating the bill allows fees to be retained by the entity that provides the service. He provided examples of ITD's partnering with the Idaho Department of Corrections (IDOC) to establish a process to issue identification (ID) cards to those incarcerated who are about to be released. In addition, Idahoans can now renew or replace their driver's license and ID cards directly online. It has been successful in reducing long lines and alleviating the pressure for local driver's license offices. **H 332** proposal would allow ITD, as the entity providing the service, the ability to keep a portion of the online fee to recoup their costs on the DMV portal. He concluded that there is no fiscal impact as it just redirects the fees.

- MOTION:** **Vice Chairman Crabtree** moved to send **H 332** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Den Hartog** offered to carry the bill on the Senate floor.
- H 333** **Mr. Goeke** said **H 333** seeks to do two things: 1.) it distributes fees to the entity issuing dealership and salesperson ID cards without the dealer needing to leave their business to go to a county office for the cards; and 2.) it repeals part of Idaho Code § 49-1635 which requires salespeople to perform a minimum of five sales per year in order to renew their license. Repealing it is consistent with the Governor's Red Tape Reduction Act.
- MOTION:** **Senator Lodge** moved to send **H 333** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Lodge** offered to carry the bill on the Senate floor.
- H 375** **Captain Scott Hanson** of the Idaho State Police (ISP) Commercial Vehicle Safety Division said that **H 375** proposes to increase the Hazardous Material Endorsement (or permit) fee from \$10 to \$15. The increase per permit will provide funding to meet the current needs of the Hazardous Material and Hazardous Waste Transportation Fund, pay all the costs for the five ISP Hazardous Materials Specialists for a year, and ensure the fund's ongoing sustainability. ITD administers the permits and retains \$2 per permit, which will remain the same. With this increase, ISP will receive \$13 per permit instead of the \$8 per permit they had received.
- DISCUSSION:** **Vice Chairman Crabtree** wondered what measure had been taken to cut their costs. **Captain Hanson** said they had not renewed the certification on their old equipment. They are now looking to replace the old equipment, which has become a challenge.
- Senator Winder** asked how long it had been since the fee had been increased. **Captain Hanson** said it was last increased in 2010.
- MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send **H 376** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Burtenshaw** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Winder** offered to carry the bill on the Senate floor.
- S 1296** **Senator Jordan**, District 17, said **S 1296** will allow a commercial service airport to adopt reasonable rules and regulations regarding Transportation Network Company (TNC) services. TNCs are rideshares, such as Uber or Lyft, and have become popular transportation options for travelers arriving at airports; however, their use has become a safety issue at airports. This bill will allow airports to regulate TNCs on airport access roads similarly to how they regulate cabs and shuttles. She referred to a letter of support from Idaho airport managers in Idaho Falls, Twin Falls, Pocatello, Lewiston, and Hailey.
- DISCUSSION:** **Senator Rice** pointed out that this bill could be interpreted in a broader sense than intended and recommended sending it to the 14th Order of Business for amendment.
- TESTIMONY:** **Elizabeth Koeckeritz**, Administrator of the Boise Airport, urged the passage of **S 1296**. TNCs currently do not have their own location to wait for their fares, and consequently they are either using the cell phone lane or they travel around and around the airport waiting for their passengers to arrive, thereby becoming a huge safety concern. The Boise Airport is the regional airport for southwest Idaho and had 4.1 million passengers pass through it last year.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Jordan** appreciated the input from Senator Rice and agreed the bill needed to be amended. **Senator Rice** commented that this was important legislation and he looked forward to helping with the amendment.

MOTION: **Senator Rice** moved to send **S 1296** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment. **Senator Buckner-Webb** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. Senator Jordan will carry the bill on the Senate floor.

ADJOURNED: With no further business before the Committee, **Chairman Brackett** adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Senator Brackett
Chair

Gaye Bennett
Secretary