

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 18, 2020
- TIME:** 1:30 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room EW40
- MEMBERS:** Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representative(s) Gestrin, Kauffman, Youngblood, Dixon, Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, DeMordaunt, Syme, Blanksma, Addis, Ricks, Wintrow, Gannon, Davis, Rubel
- ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Vice Chairman Shepherd, Representative(s) Gestrin, Monks, Gannon
- GUESTS:** Steffanie Empey, Right to Life Idaho; Caroline Merritt, Idaho Chamber Alliance; Blaine Conzatti, Family Policy Alliance of ID; Linda Thomas, Stanton Healthcare; Christian Welp, Catholic Conference; Mat Erpelding, BMCC
- Chairman Palmer** called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.
- Chairman Palmer** presented **Claire Walker** to the committee. Claire will be committee Page for the remainder of the session. She is the daughter of **Jody Johnson** and **Cevin Jones** of Eden, Idaho.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Addis** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2020, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- MOTION:** **Rep. Addis** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2020, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- H 485:** **Chairman Palmer** called for **Rep. Goesling** to present **H 485**, legislation dealing with student loan repayment for nurses at the VA. Rep. Goesling was not present so the meeting proceeded to the next available presenter.
- S 1255:** **Marv Hagedorn**, Chief Administrator, Idaho Division of Veteran Services, presented **S 1255**. This bill authorizes the administrator of the Division of Veterans Services to request the State Controller to make transfers from the Idaho Veterans Recognition Fund to the Idaho Veterans Recognition Income Fund. The money will be used to match grant funds for new construction, replacement, remodel, and life safety projects for Idaho State Veterans Homes, State Veterans Cemeteries, and other matching federal grant opportunities.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Dixon** made a motion to send **S 1255** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Syme** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- S 1249:** **Senator Regina Bayer** presented **S 1249**. This legislation provides for a special license plate option, Choose Life, for people who wish to express their support of unborn children. Funds from the sale of the plate will be used by the non-profit organization, Choose Life Idaho, Inc., to help support Pregnancy Care Centers in the State. The money will also be used to engage in education and support of adoption as a choice for women, encouraging alternatives to abortion.
- Speaking **in support** of the legislation were **Steffany Empey**, Right to Life Idaho; **Blaine Conzatti**, Family Policy Alliance of Idaho; **Linda Thomas**, Stanton Healthcare; and **Christian Welp**, Catholic Conference. Points they mentioned were: twenty pregnancy centers in Idaho would receive funding from the sale of the plate, this plate will promote a culture of life in Idaho, funding for these health care services will be provided without taxpayer money.

MOTION: **Rep. Dixon** spoke **in support** of the bill. He made a motion to send **H 1249** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Speaking **in opposition** to the bill were **Reps. Wintrow** and **Rubel**. They suggested the plate seemed like an unbalanced political discussion that could create divisiveness. They would support a discussion to promote a pro-choice license plate.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Davis, Wintrow** and **Rubel** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Crane** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

SCR 125: **Senator Johnson** presented this Concurrent Resolution to authorize Legislative Council to appoint one member from the Senate and one member from the House to an interim committee to study intrastate commercial air service and develop a long-term strategy for sustainable commercial air service in Idaho. Additional members from the public with knowledge or work experience in commercial air service will also be appointed.

Reps. Rubel and **Wintrow** encouraged bipartisan participation on the committee with the possibility of more than one committee member from each House.

Speaking **in support** of **SCR 125** were **Mat Erpelding**, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce and **Caroline Merritt**, Idaho Chamber Alliance. They agreed better intrastate and interstate air service would improve the economic outlook for Idaho and encourage business owners to invest in the state.

MOTION: **Rep. Youngblood** made a motion to send **SCR 125** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Speaking **in support** of the motion were **Rep. Davis** and **Rep. Ricks**. **Rep. Davis** said she supports the Resolution, but would encourage bipartisan participation on the interim committee.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Harris, and Rubel** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Youngblood** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Joyce McKenzie
Secretary