

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 12, 2020

TIME: 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment

PLACE: Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: Jeff Neumeyer, John Mackey, United Heritage; Chief Jeff Lavey, Police Chiefs; Fred Birnbaum, Idaho Freedom Foundation; Matthew Conde, AAA; Dan McKnight, citizen; Brian Goeke, ITD; Justin Crawford, Abate of Idaho; Rachel Khalil, Fallen Riders Fund Idaho; Michael Grigsby, Indedend; Lane Triplet, Cara Rice, Idaho Coalition of Motorcycle Safety; Dan Prinzing, Don Murray, Wassmuth Center; Nina Schaeffer, Boise Bicycle Project; Ken Burgess, COMPASS; Francoise Cleveland, AARP-Idaho; Cynthia Gibson, Idaho Walk Bike All; Matt Smith, Idaho State Police; Max Cotah, Ida Heritage; Steve Thomas, HTEN-Farm Bureau

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Addis** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 27971: **Dan McKnight**, a military veteran presented **RS 27971**. This Memorial expresses support of the United States Constitution and the right of the President of the United States to order the Idaho National Guard into the service of the United States. The House of Representatives and the Senate of the State of Idaho urge Congress to fulfill its constitutional duty to approve a declaration of war before the Idaho National Guard is deployed to combat operations on foreign soil.

MOTION: **Rep. Gannon** made a motion to introduce **RS 27971** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 614: **Senator Chuck Winder** presented **H 614**. The bill addresses the issue of distracted driving as it relates to use of cell phones or other defined electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle. He quoted statistics showing this legislation, if passed, would save lives.

Jeff Neumeyer, General Counsel for United Heritage Financial Group spoke in support of **H 614**. Mr. Neumeyer said the purpose of this legislation is to treat the use of certain electronic devices behind the wheel of a vehicle as an infraction. The bill addresses safety concerns associated with a significant portion of distracted driving crashes. Enforcement and conditions under which electronic device communications would be allowed are defined. The bill also addresses the problem of a growing patchwork of local ordinances against distracted driving. Mr. Neumeyer answered committee questions about exceptions and certain circumstances.

Chairman Palmer called a recess of the committee at 1:56. p.m.

Chairman Palmer reconvened the meeting at 3:11 p.m.

Speaking **in support** of the bill were: **Jeff Lavey**, Meridian Chief of Police; **Matthew Conde**, AAA; **Justin Crawford**, ABATE of Idaho; **Rachel Khalil**, Fallen Riders; **Michael Grigsby**, **Lane Triplett**, Idaho Coalition for Motorcycle Safety; **Ken Burgess**, COMPASS; **Francoise Cleveland**, AARP. They all agreed there is a need for hands free legislation and consistent enforcement.

Speaking **in opposition** to the bill was **Fred Birnbaum**, Idaho Freedom Foundation. He said he applauds the intent of the legislation, but feels equitable enforcement will be very difficult.

Chairman Palmer put the committee at ease at 4:11 p.m.

Chairman Palmer resumed the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

Cynthia Gibson, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance; **Steve Thomas**, Farm Bureau Insurance Mutual Insurance Company, spoke **in support** of the bill.

Chairman Palmer put the committee at ease at 4:14 p.m.

Chairman Palmer resumed the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:**

Rep. Blanksma made a unanimous consent request to **HOLD H 614** for time certain, Monday, March 16, 2020. Speaking to her motion she said committee members of JFAC want to vote on the bill so she would like to hold it until Monday when they can be in attendance.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:**

Rep. Rubel objected to the unanimous consent request. She made a unanimous consent request to vote on the bill at the end of the meeting.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST
WITHDRAWN:**

Rep. Rubel withdrew her unanimous consent request.

MOTION:

Rep. Rubel made a motion to send **H 614** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**MOTION
WITHDRAWN:**

Rep. Rubel withdrew her motion to send **H 614** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

ADJOURN:

Rep. Addis made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. **Reps. Gannon, Davis and Rubel** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Joyce McKenzie
Secretary