

MINUTES  
**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman DeMordaunt, Representatives Gestrin, Youngblood, Dixon, Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, Syme, Blanksma, Addis, Manwaring, Mitchell, Okuniewicz, Shepherd, Gannon, Rubel, McCrostie

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Reps. Dixon, Syme, Rubel, McCrostie

**GUESTS:** Brian Goeke, Alberto Gonzalez, ITD; Katie Thibyeau, Westerberg & Assoc.; Brody Aston, Russell Westerberg, VITU; Sean Schupack, AGC; Sara Westbrooke, IAC; Matthew Conde, AAA; Fred Birnbaum, ID Freedom Foundation; David Cameron, Rail Conference

**Chairman Palmer** called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

**S 1104:** **Rep. Okuniewicz** presented **S 1104**. This legislation is a simple bi-partisan rail safety effort supported by railroad carriers, rail safety advocates, rail labor and railroad contractors. Motorists are responsible to stop a certain number of feet away from a crossing when a train is approaching. Modern on-track maintenance equipment has evolved into "train like" machines that present the same dangers as a train. This legislation adds the language "or other on-track equipment" to code, anywhere it delineates a motorist's responsibilities at a railroad crossing or when a "train" is present.

**David Cameron**, Teamsters Rail Conference, spoke **in support** of the bill. He commented that some of the new railroad equipment is as big as a locomotive and poses the same dangers at railroad crossings or when a train is present.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gestrin** made a motion to send **S 1104** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Okuniewicz** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**S 1102:** **Brody Aston**, representing VITU, presented **S 1102**. This legislation provides updates to statute designed to allow the business community and public to conduct their interactions with Idaho Transportation Department completely electronically. The bill creates the authorization for the program which will allow all providers who meet the qualification requirements set by ITD to participate. States that have adopted an Electronic Vehicle Credential Program have reported reduced costs, paperwork and pressure on DMVs while improving customer service. The EVC program authorizes ITD to allow providers to electronically file vehicle titling and registration transactions.

**MOTION:** **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to send **S 1102** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Holtzclaw** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**Chairman Palmer** turned the gavel over to **Vice Chairman DeMordaunt**.

**H 314:** **Rep. Palmer** presented **H 314**. This legislation amends the Transportation Expansion and Congestion Mitigation program, to provide for additional funds for Idaho's roads and bridges. The bill increases the amount of sales tax used to bond for the TECM program and allows for local authorities to participate in bonding. When asked if there is property tax relief built into the bill, Rep. Palmer responded, saying this is a transportation funding bill. He then explained how the bonding mechanism will work.

**Sara Westbrook**, Idaho Association of Counties spoke **in support** of the bill.

**Fred Birnbaum**, Idaho Freedom Foundation, spoke to the bill. He said there are aspects of the legislation he supports, while he had issues with some of the wording in the bill.

**Rep. Youngblood** addressed **Jeremy Chou**, co-sponsor of the bill. Mr. Chou, representing the Idaho Association of Counties and American Council of Engineering Companies, clarified wording in the bill. He further explained the bonding and grant process.

**Rep. Youngblood** declared rule 80

**MOTION:** **Rep. Gestrin** made a motion to send **H 314** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. Spoke to his motion saying, this is a good mechanism to get highway funding to the local level.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Gannon** made a substitute motion to send **H 314** to General Orders. He spoke to the substitute motion, asking if there was any property tax relief in the bill. He said property taxes are on the rise and citizens need tax relief. If the bill went to General Orders tax relief could be written into the bill.

**Reps. Blanksma** and **Monks** objected to the substitute motion. They agreed the motion was out of order, changed the topic, and did not apply to **H 314**.

**Rep. Manwaring** spoke **in support** of the original motion.

**Rep. Harris** said the substitute motion to send **H 314** to General Orders was a hostile motion. He supports the original motion.

**VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Vice Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the substitute motion to send **H 314** to General Orders. **Motion failed by voice vote.** **Rep. Monks** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

**VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Vice Chairman DeMordaunt** called for a vote on the original motion to send **H 314** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mitchell** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

---

Representative Palmer  
Chair

---

Joyce McKenzie  
Secretary