

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 08, 2022

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Den Hartog, Vice Chairman Woodward, Senators Winder, Lodge, Rice, Vick, Crabtree, Nelson, and Wintrow

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: **Chair Den Hartog** convened the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) at 1:32 P.M.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Lodge** moved to approve the Minutes of February 3, 2022. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Chair Den Hartog passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Woodward.

S 1254: **TRANSPORTATION - Amends, repeals, and adds to existing law to remove certain provisions regarding air quality related to motor vehicles and to provide revised provisions regarding air quality programs. Chair Den Hartog** stated this legislation allowed for removal of requirements for vehicle emissions testing in the Treasure Valley starting July 1, 2023. She noted changes inherent to the turnover and modernization of vehicles on the road allowing for this change. **Chair Den Hartog** commented there would be a remaining fund balance that could be assessed for reallocation at a later point. She went on to explain that ending the vehicle emissions testing program would not end the focus on air quality and pointed to two new code sections, § 39-6702 and § 39-6703, written as safeguards.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Wintrow** requested a 'plain language' explanation of the calculations and statistics referenced in **S 1254**. She then asked how those calculations factored in pollution resulting from the increase in forest fires, as well as how thermal inversions further impact those numbers moving forward. **Chair Den Hartog** deferred to testimony and experts on hand for response.

TESTIMONY: **Johnathan Oppenheimer**, External Relations Director, Idaho Conservation League, testified in opposition to the bill. He stated the removal of requirements was premature based on lack of information demonstrating that impacted areas were below program thresholds. He then mentioned an additional need to invest in infrastructure changes in preparation for the removal of requirements. **Mr. Oppenheimer** and **Senator Wintrow** discussed where the negative impact would fall if Idaho were to achieve non-attainment for ozone levels.

Alex LaBeau, President, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry (IACI), testified in support of the bill. He referenced IACI's role in the development of both Ada and Canyon County's programs and promises made to indicate when the program was no longer necessary. He noted that higher quality and electric vehicles on the road had already allowed for reduced testing frequency in prior years, and referenced Washington state's program elimination for similar reasons. **Mr. LaBeau** stated that with current compliance, the program was no longer justifiable.

DISCUSSION: **Tiffany Floyd**, Air Quality Division Manager, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, took the podium to answer questions raised by Senator Wintrow during bill introduction. She explained, in plain terms, how calculations were made each year to ensure compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). **Senator Wintrow** asked about the Treasure Valley's standing. **Ms. Floyd** responded the region was at, or above, the warning threshold. She referenced the need to address air quality through other means as the emissions testing program had outlived its efficacy for this metric.

Senator Wintrow asked if eliminating emissions tests would increase the Treasure Valley's risk of hitting air quality thresholds. **Ms. Floyd** replied that the reduction in emissions resulting from the program in recent years had become so small that cost and burden outweighed the benefit.

MOTION: **Senator Rice** moved to send **S 1254** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Lodge** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Woodward passed the gavel to Chair Den Hartog.

S 1267: **TRANSPORTATION - Amends existing law to provide an exception from stopping and inspection for certain private vehicles and horse trailers.** **Vice Chairman Woodward** explained this legislation was designed to bring the code in line with daily practice and secure inspection focus on commercial vehicles rather than private recreational vehicles. He emphasized the practice would help ensure maintenance and proper operating conditions of commercial vehicles.

TESTIMONY: **Wyatt Prescott** Idaho Cattle Association, testified in support of the bill. He pointed out the change to section three, line 29, allowing for diversion of livestock trailers in the event of animal disease outbreak or ongoing theft investigations.

MOTION: **Senator Rice** moved to send **S 1267** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Vick** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chair Den Hartog** adjourned the meeting at 2:08 P.M.

Senator Den Hartog
Chair

Cara Beyenka
Secretary