

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Tuesday, March 08, 2022
- TIME:** 1:30 pm or Upon Adjournment
- 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:** Representative(s) Mitchell
- GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.
Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Manwaring** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2022, meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- S 1254aa:** **Rep. Crane** presented **S 1254aa**. This bill removes the requirement for vehicle emissions testing in the Treasure Valley.
Alex La Beau, President, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, spoke **in support** of the bill. He said recent transportation modeling has shown due to fleet modernization and other factors, the vehicle emissions testing program is no longer as effective as it once was in reducing emissions. The bill removes statutory language that established a Treasure Valley Air Quality Council and provides a process for the Department of Environmental Quality to decide whether to recommend to the legislature that Regional Air Quality Councils be formed to address future air quality concerns when stated thresholds are met.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Dixon** made a motion to send **S 1254aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.
Speaking **in opposition** to the bill were **Scott Previtera** and **Tracy Rose**, auto emissions technicians and **Eliza Walton**, Idaho Conservation League. They agreed the emissions testing program should continue, and voiced concerns saying it is premature to eliminate emissions testing in Ada and Canyon counties.
Al Freeman outlined his 12 year involvement in and research of vehicle emission testing in the Treasure Valley. He maintained the original law was not properly vetted so the law should be repealed.
- MOTION:** Due to the absence of the maker of the motion, **Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to send **S 1254aa** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Gannon** and **Rubel** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Crane** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

Scott Stokes, Deputy Chief Director, Idaho Transportation Department, presented the ITD Budget to the committee. Deputy Director Stokes addressed growth in Idaho and the affect it has on the state's roads and bridges. He said modernization will be key to addressing growth. Items in the budget were: improvements to significant corridors, local bridge maintenance, railroad projects, airport improvements, pedestrian safety, Port of Lewiston and GARVEE Bond Debt Payoff. He added, expansion and mitigation projects improve safety and noted a 50% reduction of fatalities on GARVEE corridors. Deputy Director Stokes discussed Bonding capacity and total indebtedness with the committee.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Joyce McKenzie
Secretary