

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Okuniewicz, Vice Chair Den Hartog, Senators Hart, Carlson, Toews, Trakel, and Rabe

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Winder and Just

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: **Chairman Okuniewicz** called the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) to order at 1:39 p.m.

Chairman Okuniewicz stated due to technical issues the Committee would move on to the bill hearings and would come back to the Gubernatorial Appointment.

S 1064 **MOTOR VEHICLE TITLES - Amends existing law to provide for certain temporary permits and to establish a limitation regarding their issuance.** **Senator Den Hartog** explained the bill was a clean up for the Electronic Vehicle Credential (EVC) program that was implemented in 2021. The program worked by allowing the bank or contract company to request registration for a new car when purchased. She stated the bill would change the number of days for the temporary permit to be valid from 40 days to 45 days to allow extra time for payment processing. **Vice Chair Den Hartog** relayed the bill also had an addition stating no more than one temporary permit could be issued per vehicle.

MOTION: **Senator Carlson** moved to send **S 1064** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Rabe** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

H 56 **TRANSPORTATION - Amends existing law to revise the definition of "daylight hours" with respect to certain drivers.** **Representative Durrant** stated drivers under 16 were restricted to daylight driving which was defined as ½ hour before sunrise and ½ hour after sunset. The revision defined "daylight hours" to the period of time between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. local time. She stated students were now required to have 10 hours of night time driving with a parent and had learned how to drive at night.

In response to Committee questions, **Representative Durrant** clarified the hours would be set 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. instead of the varying times related to sunset and sunrise. She stated that there were no issues relayed to her from the police or sheriff's departments as they felt this would be more enforceable and seemed neutral on the change.

MOTION: **Vice Chair Den Hartog** moved to send **H 56** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Rabe** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**GUBERNATORIAL
APPOINTMENT:**

Committee Consideration of the Gubernatorial Appointment of John Bulger of Pocatello, Idaho, to the Idaho Transportation Board, term commencing February 2, 2023 and expiring January 31, 2029.

Julie DeLorenzo, Vice Chair, Idaho Transportation Department Board, provided an introduction for Governor Brad Little's nominee to the ITD Board for District 5, John Bulger. He would be replacing his father-in-law Dwight Horsch. She relayed that Mr. Bulger was a practicing attorney in Pocatello and was an active participant in the Idaho Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Idaho State Bar, Family Law and Child Protection sections, and the Idaho Supreme Court Pro Bono Commission.

John Bulger stated that public service was something he found quite important. He provided details on his background as a lawyer and a former court worker in Montana and Idaho. **Mr. Bulger** relayed that he was aware of the learning curve and was looking forward to working on the Board.

Chairman Okuniewicz asked what drew him to Transportation. **Mr. Bulger** answered that he had seen the state of our roads while travelling and felt they were very good for a western state with so many roads. There was a daunting task ahead on how to pay for infrastructure, repairs, and new development on those roads with limited means. He stated he was committed to work with the board and that the money was spent wisely and in the best way.

Senator Hart inquired if in his legal work, had he ever dealt with any construction companies, construction projects, permitting projects that maybe had environmental issues, or was there a connection between his legal practice and the issues that he may see on the board. **Mr. Bulger** said that he had not done much in his law practice but was familiar based on past work experience as a clerk in the court systems. He acknowledged that he was not an expert but was familiar and that he had a lot to learn. **Senator Hart** followed up by asking how he would deal with those who wanted their projects funded. **Mr. Bulger** stated it was the board as a whole that would look into a project and approve or deny it and that one person on their own could not push a project forward.

H 57

TRANSPORTATION - Amends existing law to provide for the issuance of special placards together with disabled veteran license plates.

Representative Nelson was not available. **Chairman Okuniewicz** stated **H 57** would be rescheduled.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Okuniewicz** adjourned the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

Senator Okuniewicz
Chair

Lena Amoah
Secretary