

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 16, 2023

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Mitchell, Representatives Dixon(1), Holtzclaw, Monks, Blanksma, Manwaring, Shepherd, Crane(12), Handy, Hill, Lanting, Miller, Petzke, Yamamoto, Gannon, Burns

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Monks, Shepherd, Crane(12)

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Palmer called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Petzke** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8 and 10, 2023 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 93: **Rep. Hill**, District 14, stated this bill is very simple and will allow any vehicle under 60,000 pounds, and not on the International Registration Plan (IRP), to be eligible for biennial registration.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 93** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Hill** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 107: **Rep. Mitchell**, District 6, declared Rule 80. He then stated this bill will allow for a re-design of the amateur radio license plate. This re-design will make it easier to identify an amateur radio operator, in the event of an emergency, when they can be of assistance if other communication systems are overwhelmed.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 107** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Mitchell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

H 132: **Rep. Palmer**, District 20, stated this bill establishes a Strategic Initiatives Grant Program, which will be very beneficial to communities impacted by growth due to state highway and overpass projects that create additional traffic loads on local roads. He explained, \$100 million will be continuously appropriated for the grant program, with 50% going to rural projects and 50% for urban projects. He remarked, the program already has \$36 million in the account, which was appropriated and earmarked last year for the Ustick Road section of the Highway 16 expansion project. He commented, the grant program will be administered by the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) Board, where they can either award grants directly to the local entities to complete the projects if they have the capacity to manage the project, and if not, ITD can complete the projects for the local entities.

Rick Hogaboam, representing the City of Nampa and Highway District 1, spoke in support of **H 132**. He stated, they recognize the importance of state transportation infrastructure investments to improve safety, mobility, and economic opportunities, however, these improvements impact local roadways because they can no longer handle the increased traffic. He commented, this grant program, which will mitigate the impact of state highway projects on local roads, will greatly assist locals to fund connections to those state highway systems in a timely manner.

Jacob Miller, representing COMPASS, spoke in support of **H 132**. He stated because Ada and Canyon counties are projected to continue to see population growth into the future, there needs to be reliable funding available for infrastructure improvements to keep up with the growth. He commented, this grant program will mitigate stress on local roads by making wise long term investments in transportation infrastructure.

Rep. Palmer stood and commented he was happy to hear the support from local entities.

MOTION: **Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to send **H 132** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Palmer** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

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

Chairman Palmer announced today is the committee's Page, **Nelson Baines'** last day. The committee thanked him for his good work.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary