

MINUTES  
**SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023

**TIME:** 1:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW53

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

**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:** **Chairman Okuniewicz** called the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) to order at 1:01 p.m.

**H 284** **MOTOR VEHICLE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - Amends existing law to provide for certain electronic filing and a fee waiver and to revise provisions regarding the online insurance verification system. Representative Furniss** stated this bill amended the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) matching bill related to proof of insurance from 4 years ago. It was believed that with the proposed corrections it would reduce notices going out from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) by 30-50 percent. The first change added an option for a title holder to complete the release of liability form, when a vehicle was sold, online free of charge. The second change was asking insurance companies to send the insurance verification report in weekly instead of monthly, reducing the number of notices that go out. The third change was allowing title holders 60 days instead of 30 days to comply and purchase auto insurance. The fourth change was allowing another 10 days once for correction when the notice for registration revocation was sent out. The fifth change asked the insurance companies to send in notification if a vehicle was in storage. The DMV felt if those five things happened that the false positives would be reduced.

**DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Okuniewicz** asked how many false positives there were. **Representative Furniss** replied that approximately 30,000 notices were sent and they believed with the changes that number would drop to 15,000. **Vice Chair Den Hartog** stated she was confused about why there was no data and asked if this legislation was doing what it was intended to do. **Representative Furniss** stated the number of tickets being handed out was 11,000 tickets a month and that number was going down. **Senator Trakel** inquired if there was a cost that the insurance provider would charge the insured for increasing the number of times they had to send in the report. He also asked how this was not a presumption of guilt. **Representative Furniss** was not sure if it would cost insurance companies more money or if they would pass on the cost. He said they were not giving tickets out and that the program was working by reducing the number of uninsured drivers

**TESTIMONY:** **Jeremy Chou**, Progressive Insurance Company, stated the program was working as intended. He stated it was hard for companies to comply with a weekly process and suggested that bimonthly reporting would be better. He questioned Lines 31-33 that states the insurance companies shall report meaning they were required and did not agree with that. **Chairman Okuniewicz** relayed that he felt algorithmic changes were fairly easy and asked how hard was it to make these changes. **Mr. Chou** relayed that his understanding was it was not that easy to make they changes and that smaller companies had to pay a service to do this. He also answered Senator Trakel's question and explained the change did increase administrative costs but did not know if it would be passed down to the consumer and felt larger companies like Progressive could probably absorb the cost but not sure about smaller ones.

**CONCLUSION:** **Representative Furniss** responded to Mr. Chou's issue with shall as was written in this document was optional.

**MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send **H 284** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion.

**DISCUSSION:** **Senator Trakel** stated his vote in committee did not reflect his vote on the floor. **Vice Chair Den Hartog** relayed that she was not sure this got to heart of original intention when this legislation was passed. She did not feel that making this less annoying for people who were already obeying the law was the right strategy so she would not be supporting the motion.

**VOICE VOTE:** The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Vice Chair Den Hartog**, **Senators Carlson**, and **Trakel** asked to be recorded as voting nay.

**H 237** **TRANSPORTATION - Amends existing law to establish a policy regarding maintenance, construction, and development of bridges and highways.** **Representative Blanksma** explained this was a one sentence add in code that clarified language to prioritize highway funds for roads and bridges. She stated it did allow for other projects.

**Senator Just** asked what the problem was that they were trying to solve. **Representative Blanksma** stated the problem was that other projects were coming to the top of the list and roads and bridged needed to be priority. **Senator Hart** asked for an example of how the priorities would change. **Representative Blanksma** stated that the money could be used for beautification projects, mass transit, bike lanes, all of all of those were within the scope of these funds but the purpose of the legislation was that quality roads and bridges should always float to the top of that priority list. **Senator Hart** asked where the idea for this change came from. **Representative Blanksma** responded that she was asked to carry the bill and was unsure who asked for the change.

**TESTIMONY:** The following testified in opposition to **H 237**: Tim Points, Association of Idaho Public Works Professionals; Julie Hart, Association of Idaho Cities; Nina Pienaar, Boise Bicycle Project; Tony Brennan, PedSafety; Lisa Hecht, self and member of Idaho Walk Bike Alliance; Chris Danley; Cynthia Gibson, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance; Jacob Miller, Government Affairs Coordinator, Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS); Molly Garner, Boise Bicycle Project; Kathy Griesmyer, Government Affairs Director, City of Boise

- Local control of how funding was being spent would be taken away.
- There was too much emphasis being placed on motor vehicles.
- Allowing funds to be spent on pedestrian and bicycle paths would save lives.
- Bill would be supported if the word "primarily" were moved from line 26 to line 24 after "shall".

- Jeopardized local agencies ability to access Federal funding sources for critical safety projects.
- Fatal pedestrian and bicycle accidents were up 47 percent according to Idaho Transportation Departments most recent Statewide crash report indicating pedestrian and bicycle safety money was needed.
- Failed to address population that did not drive.

**CONCLUSION:** **Representative Blanksma** reiterated that this amendment did not preclude any projects it simply asked for roads and bridges to be prioritized. In response to testimony she stated that Idaho code § 40-713 and 40-714 allowed these funds to be used for federal match.

**MOTION:** **Senator Rabe** move to send **H 237** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment. **Senator Just** seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Chairman Okuniewicz** called for a roll call vote. **Senators Hart, Trakel, Rabe,** and **Just** voted aye. **Vice Chair Den Hartog, Senators Winder, Carlson, Toews,** and **Chairman Okuniewicz** voted nay. The motion failed.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Senator Winder** moved to send **H 237** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** **Chairman Okuniewicz** called for a roll call vote. **Vice Chair Den Hartog, Senators Winder, Carlson, Toews,** and **Chairman Okuniewicz** voted aye. **Senators Hart, Carlson, Trakel,** and **Just** voted nay. The motion carried by **roll call vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** Approval for Minutes of February 14, 2023 moved to next meeting.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Toews** moved to approve the Minutes of February 16, 2023. **Vice Chair Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Carlson** moved to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2023. **Senator Trakel** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Vice Chair Den Hartog** moved to approve the Minutes of February 23, 2023. **Senator Carlson** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Just** moved to approve the Minutes of March 2, 2023. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Just** moved to approve the Minutes of March 9, 2023. **Senator Rabe** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Okuniewicz** adjourned the meeting at 2:03 p.m.

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Senator Okuniewicz  
Chair

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Lena Amoah  
Secretary