

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Okuniewicz, Vice Chairman Den Hartog, Senators Winder, Hart, Carlson, Toews, Trakel, Rabe, 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 1:30 p.m.

S 1317 **RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION - don't tread on me license plates.** **Senator Nichols** introduced the proposal of the Gadsen "Don't Tread on Me" specialty license plate. **Senator Nichols** stated the purchase of this plate by Idahoans would establish a firearm safety grant fund for firearm education and overseen by the State treasury and the education administered by the State Board of Education. Senator Nichols stated there were twelve states that had adopted the plate. **Senator Nichols** also provided a brief history of the symbolism of the Gadsen flag.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Okuniewicz** asked what the estimated revenue would be. **Senator Nichols** responded within the first year roughly \$25,000 and other states had seen an increase each year.

Senator Rabe asked if other states in connection to this license plate had also required state boards of education to administer firearm safety training programs. **Senator Nichols** stated each state was different, but for the State of Idaho the firearms program was already put into law and this would be a way to fund the program.

Senator Winder asked for clarification of how the safety program would be administered by the board of education versus the grant. **Senator Nichols** responded the firearm safety education law stipulated that school districts are encouraged to establish elective courses. The State treasury would only appropriate, allocate, donate, and distribute the grant funds and the State Board of Education shall administer a program for firearm safety.

Senator Den Hartog asked if this design of the "Don't Tread on Me" was copyrighted. **Senator Nichols** stated there was not a copyright due to it being older and different versions having been used.

Senator Just commented he would like to see the plate to have more of an Idaho design, but is in favor of the plate.

Senator Trakel commented he would be against any design changes due to the historic value it represented.

Senator Winder commented this was a mandatory program for the board of education to administer where a program would need to be in place and a grant application process followed to receive funds.

TESTIMONY: Aoibheann Cline, State Director, National Rifle Association (NRA) spoke in favor of **S 1317**. **Ms. Cline** highlighted the significance and history of the Gadsen flag and an overview of the NRA non-profit firearm safety programs the organization provided to people of all ages in Idaho. **Ms. Cline** asked for these NRA programs to be included if adopted.

TESTIMONY: Greg Pruetz, President, Idaho 2nd Amendment Alliance spoke in favor of **S 1317**. **Mr. Pruetz** stated he believed this was a great tool to expand revenue and education for firearm safety programs for K-12 within the State.

Senator Rabe stated she would like to hear more from the State Board of Education of how the grant program would work and the administration of the grant. **Senator Rabe** stated she would be voting no. **Senator Den Hartog** stated she believed in the content of **S 1317** and believed in the importance. **Senator Den Hartog** believed the changes being made would change the intent of the code in **S 1349** from the 2020 legislation. **Senator Den Hartog** stated she was not in support.

MOTION: **Senator Trakel** moved to send **S 1317** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Vice Chair Den Hartog** and **Senator Rabe** asked to be recorded as voting nay.

S 1282 **MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION - Amends existing law to establish provisions regarding temporary motor vehicle registration permits.** **Senator Trakel** stated this legislation would allow an individual to purchase two thirty day temporary registration permits in the event an owner was selling their vehicle. **Senator Trakel** also stated this would be a way to register a vehicle for a test drive and have the vehicle legally on the road without having to register the vehicle for a full year and having to throw away a new set of license plates.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Toews** asked if there was a ninety day option available. **Senator Trakel** stated he was not aware of a ninety day option and this legislation should not affect any ninety day option giving the owner two thirty day options.

TESTIMONY: Hollie Ann Strang, Gem County Assessor, Idaho Assessors spoke in favor of **S 1282**. **Ms. Strang** started by clarifying the 90 day temporary registration was used when transferring plates from a current vehicle to a new one. **Ms. Strang** stated the issue was that individuals would still get the plates in the mail up to six weeks later and a vehicle had been sold creating waste of the unneeded plates. **Ms. Strang** gave an overview of how the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) would issue temporary registrations in the past. **Ms. Strang** stated when the State converted to the GEMS system it helped in tracking all registrations and provided less waste, saved time, saved money, and fewer trips to the (DMV) for customers.

TESTIMONY: Dr. Trent Saxton, representing himself, spoke in favor of **S 1282**. **Dr. Saxton** addressed the committee with his personal experience of moving to Idaho, and purchasing a new truck, but being told he also had to purchase new plates for the old truck. **Dr. Saxton** stated this change would save money and speed up services.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **S 1282** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Carlson** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

S 1319 **RELATING TO SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE PROGRAMS.** **Senator Just** stated this legislation would eliminate the weight restrictions on vehicles that would like to display personalized plates for owners.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Winder** asked how this legislation would impact the owner with a commercial vehicle. **Senator Just** responded the owner would still hold a commercial plate regardless. **Senator Winder** asked a follow up question if law enforcement would be able to distinguish between personalized and commercial.

TESTIMONY: Hollie Ann Strang, Gem County Assessor, spoke to the question of law enforcement being able to know the difference between a personal plate and a commercial plate. **Ms. Strang** stated that as law enforcement runs the plate in their system, the registration will tell if the plate is noncommercial or a commercial registration.

MOTION: **Senator Trakel** moved to send **S 1319** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Rabe** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Toews** moved to approve the Minutes of January 18, 2024. **Vice Chair Den Hartog** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Trakel** moved to approve the Minutes of January 30, 2024. **Senator Carlson** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Page Farewell - Caitlyn Ross.** **Senator Okuniewicz** thanked **Ms. Ross** for her time in the Senate and for her willingness to go above and beyond. **Ms. Ross** shared stories of her time spent in the Senate and expressed how this was a life changing experience.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Okuniewicz** adjourned the meeting at 2:24 p.m.

Senator Okuniewicz
Chair

Alicia Fowler-Rynearson
Secretary