

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 05, 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.

H 547 **PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT LICENSE PLATES - Amends existing law to remove a fee for recipients of purple heart license plates. Representative Berch** stated under the specialty Purple Heart license plate program only a disabled Purple Heart recipient was able to obtain a license plate with no fees. **Representative Berch** stated this legislation would allow all Purple Heart recipients to obtain a license plate for free as a way to show appreciation and honor our veterans, this would not impact the general fund, but would impact the plate fund which already designated funds for that purpose.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Okuniewicz** asked for clarification if a veteran had to be 100% disabled to get the free plates. **Representative Berch** responded the federal government had a formula to determine the eligibility requirement for a disabled veteran.

Senator Rabe asked when a purchase was made for these plates how were the funds distributed. **Representative Berch** stated the proceeds went directly to the Purple Heart Fund, not the General Fund.

MOTION: **Senator Just** moved to send **H 547** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Trakel** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Just** will carry on the floor.

H 583 **MOTOR VEHICLES - Amends existing law to revise the definition of "resident" for vehicle registration, titling, driver's license, and identification card purposes. Representative Mitchell** stated with H 340, the voter ID law being passed, the proposed change to this legislation would reduce the allowable time frame to align with the 30 day voter ID requirement instead of the current 90 days.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Okuniewicz** asked if a person who had just moved here 31 days prior, wanted to vote at the polls, and had not received their ID yet, would they still have the ability to vote? **Representative Mitchell** stated during a regular voting session there was a list of other documentation a person would present in order to register to vote unless the individual had started the process for a temporary driver's license.

Senator Just asked if the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) would encounter any issues if a person came in on the 29th day and would they receive a temporary permit. **Representative Mitchell** stated in the case of a police officer, they may not investigate such cases. The main purpose of this legislation was to align with the voter laws.

Vice Chair Den Hartog made the comment that despite the potential delay in mailing within 30 days the temporary paper printout could be acceptable for voter requirements also. **Representative Mitchell** responded yes, the temporary permit would be acceptable.

Senator Hart requested **H 583** be sent to the 14th Order for possible amendment to fulfill the voter registration requirements and give individuals more time to change their driver's license.

Senator Winder asked what the advantages would be to amend **H 583**. **Senator Hart** stated he hoped to find a more flexible solution by not mandating everyone to update their driver's license within 30 days to allow those with more complicated moves additional time of up to 90 days to make the update.

Senator Trakel clarified a person residing in Idaho could declare residency without a specific requirement to do so, giving flexibility in when they could declare residency and in the case of voting, a temporary license was issued immediately.

Senator Carlson asked for clarification if the intent of the legislation included vehicle registration and vehicle titling being required within the 30 days. **Chairman Okuniewicz** stated no, this legislation did not include this.

Vice Chair Den Hartog asked if the document requirements were the same for a driver's license and the free voter ID. **Representative Mitchell** stated yes, the requirements were the same.

MOTION:

Senator Hart moved to send **H 583** to the 14th Order of Business for possible amendment. **Senator Just** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**. **Senator Trakel** asked to be recorded as voting nay.

**RS 31545, RS
31547**

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION APPROVING PENDING RULES OF THE IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT. UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO A PRIVILEGED COMMITTEE FOR PRINTING, CONCURRENT RESOLUTION APPROVING PENDING RULES OF THE IDAHO STATE POLICE AND IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT WITH AN EXCEPTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO A PRIVILEGED COMMITTEE FOR PRINTING. **Vice Chair Den Hartog** stated **RS 31545** represented the rule the House Transportation and Defense Committee rejected and **RS 31547** represented all of the rules agreed on by both committees. **Vice Chair Den Hartog** also stated the two concurrent resolutions represented the committee's actions on adopting all of the rules.

MOTION:

Senator Winder asked for unanimous consent to send **RS 31545** and **RS 31547** to the State Affairs Committee for a print hearing. **Senator Rabe** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES
APPROVAL:**

Vice Chair Den Hartog moved to approve the Minutes of February 8, 2024. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**MINUTES
APPROVAL:**

Senator Carlson moved to approve the Minutes of February 13, 2024. **Senator Just** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED:

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Okuniewicz** adjourned the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

Senator Okuniewicz
Chair

Alicia Fowler-Rynearson
Secretary