

MINUTES  
**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman Mitchell, Representatives Holtzclaw, Monks, Shepherd, Crane(12), Handy, Hill, Petzke, Boyle, Clow, Harris, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Gannon, Green

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**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. Gannon** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 10, and 12, 2025 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 204:** **Rep. Pickett**, District 27, stated this legislation is a nod to Idaho's past by bringing back two iconic license plates. The first is a black license plate with white lettering and the second plate is white with teal lettering. Both recognize Idaho's potato industry with the phrase "World Famous Potatoes" along the bottom. He explained, the black plate is considered a specialty plate with an initial cost of \$70; \$25 going to the Idaho Potato Commission (IPC) and \$45 going to the state highway account. The renewal fee will be \$50, with \$15 going to the IPC and \$45 going to the state highway account. The white plate will cost \$30; \$20 going to the IPC and \$10 going to the state highway account. No additional fees will be charged for this plate making it the least expensive Idaho license plate. Neither plate will have county designators displayed.

**Katherine Kirk**, representing the Idaho Heritage Trust, spoke **in opposition** to **H 204**. She stated the white plate does not appear to be a specialty plate because there is no sponsor organization, no \$75 specialty plate fee, and no intended beneficiary or design prototype. Therefore, it appears to be a new standard plate in direct competition with the current authorized red-white-blue standard license plate. Additionally, the fee for the new white plate is lower than the current standard plate, which undermines the royalty rights paid to the Trust per a standing agreement with the Legislature.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Monks** made a motion to send **H 204** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Clow** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Pickett** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 99:** **Rep. Mendive**, District 5, stated this legislation is a clean up of last year's **H 531**, which allows parents or guardians to privately teach their children to drive and obtain a driver's license. He remarked, the program has been very popular, with 155 students completing the program and 808 in progress. He remarked, after implementation of the program an issue arose regarding the online training portion. This legislation will provide other options, in addition to the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance, to take and complete the mandatory 30 hours of classroom training, as long as the online course is approved by the State Department of Education. He also stated this legislation removes confusing language and clarifies the process.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to send **H 99** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Mendive** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 174:** **Rep. Boyle**, District 9, stated this legislation fully repeals **Title 49, Chapter 18, Idaho Code**, and creates a new chapter relating to towing and storage of abandoned motor vehicles. This new chapter offers clear guidance and promotes consistency among Idaho's law enforcement, towing companies, lenders, and the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD).

In response to committee questions regarding predatory towing and excessive storage fees, **Rep. Boyle** replied towing companies are required to have set fees and if there is a dispute, there is a process outlined in the Declaration of Opposition section of the legislation.

Speaking **in support** of **H 174**; **Mark Boijvert**, Idaho Towing Association, **Matthew Clifford**, Idaho Sheriff's Association, **Terry Derden**, Ada County Sheriff's Association, and **Robert Ellsworth**, Vista Towing. They were of the opinion much work, over the last two years, went into this legislation with lienholders, towing companies, law enforcement, and ITD all at the table, with the goal in mind to modernize and standardize towing practices and protocols statewide.

Speaking **in opposition** to **H 174**; **T.J. Biggers**, Crossroads Towing, **Randy Colson**, Rocky Mountain Towing, and **Allen Hodges**, Idaho Trucking Association. They were of the opinion predatory towing has not been sufficiently addressed in this legislation leading to very high fines. Additionally, they believe the process to manage vehicles within the new portal isn't clear regarding vehicles' values, documentation if they were stolen, and the length of time processing vehicles out of storage.

**Rep. Boyle** stood and closed. She stated this legislation addresses how fines are set and she clarified court fees are set by the courts. She also clarified law enforcement agencies check for stolen vehicles and ITD sends notices to owners and lienholders to claim their vehicles.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Green** made a motion to send **H 174** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Clow and Harris** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Boyle** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:43pm.

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Representative Palmer  
Chair

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Tracey McDonnell  
Secretary