

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2025

TIME: 1:30 P.M. or Upon Adjournment

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:** Representative(s) Green

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 3:08pm.

H 205: **Rep. Shepherd**, District 7, stated this legislation amends **Idaho Code, Section 49-654**, to allow vehicles to exceed the speed limit, up to 15 mph over the posted limit, when passing in a passing lane. He explained, current law allows a driver to exceed the speed limit when passing on a two-lane road, but excludes passing lanes. This legislation adds passing lanes on the same section of highways, but excludes roadways with a posted speed under 55 mph or to any portion of a roadway that is within an incorporated city.

Mike Kane, AAA, stated they read the bill and would like to offer a one sentence friendly amendment. On page 2, beginning on line 16, add the following sentence after "opposing travel lane." "For the purposes of this subparagraph, "passing lane" shall not apply to any lane of an interstate highway." He commented, this would clarify the legislation was not authorizing drivers to exceed the posted highway speed limits by 15 mph due to the word "or" on page 2, line 10.

Rep. Shepherd stood and closed. He stated he did not think this change was needed because the 15 mph sentence is currently in statute and has never created any confusion.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to send **H 205** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shepherd** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 206: **Rep. Sauter**, District 1, stated this legislation moves the Emergency Medical Services Bureau (EMS) from the Department of Health and Welfare (DHW) to the Idaho Military Division (IMD), which already coordinates emergency management with state and local government through the Office of Emergency Management. All existing EMS programs at DHW (except for Public Health Preparedness and Response Program) will be moved effective July 1, 2025. He remarked, this move will sunset the EMS program's rulemaking authority on and after July 1, 2027, and expresses the intent of the Legislature that the EMS program propose the codification of any necessary EMS Rules in the chapter created by this legislation before the adjournment of this current Legislative Session. Rep. Sauter commented, although costs are still being finalized, there will be a cost reduction to the program, once moved, due to a reduction in positions and the elimination of the Physician's Board and Physician's Commission.

In response to a committee question regarding if moving the EMS program to the IMD will end up taking over local city and county EMS programs, **Rep. Sauter** stated local control stays intact with the movement of the EMS program and they will not be consolidated.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 206** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Mitchell, Shepherd, and Harris** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Sauter** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 207: **Rep. Sauter**, District 1, stated this is procedural legislation and is a trailer bill to **H 206**. It makes no substantive changes to law and merely moves the REPLICA compact among states for EMS, which has been in place since 2016, to a single section in the new chapter created by **H 206**.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 207** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Reps. Shepherd and Harris** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY.** **Rep. Sauter** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 146: **Rep. Ehlers**, District 21, stated this legislation would require commercial wind energy conversion systems, which are facilities containing five or more wind turbines 50 feet or taller, to use light mitigation technology if there are red lights atop each turbine that constantly blink on and off. He explained, the blinking lights can be very disruptive to residents in homes, adjacent to these wind farms, that were in place before the wind farms existed. The technology being proposed is currently in use by aircraft to avoid collisions, by detecting obstructions with the use of radar, which would then illuminate towers, turbines, or other obstructions when aircraft get within a specified distance from those obstructions. This technology would eliminate the need for red lights on the top of turbines to stay on all the time. Any costs associated with the installation, implementation, operation, and maintenance of the light mitigating technology system shall be the responsibility of the developer, owner, or operator of the wind energy conversion system. If approved by the Federal Aviation Administration, the developers, owners, or operators of the wind energy conversion systems shall install the light mitigating technology within 24 months after receiving approval.

MOTION: **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to send **H 146** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Ehlers** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 3:29pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary