

MINUTES  
**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Monday, February 24, 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) Clow
- 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 1:31pm.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2025 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- Due to the absence of the bill sponsor for **H 235**, **Chairman Palmer** moved to the next agenda item.
- H 234:** **Rep. Shepherd**, District 7, stated this legislation adds wildland firefighter vehicles to the definition of authorized emergency vehicles when responding to urban interface fires. He explained, currently fire department vehicles are considered emergency vehicles but not vehicles from agencies that do wildland fire fighting. The quicker firefighters can get to urban interface fires, the faster requests for additional resources, including tanker planes and helicopters, to defend houses and critical infrastructure can be made. He stated, in these urban interface situations, time is of the essence.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to send **H 234** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Shepherd** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 235:** **Rep. Tanner**, District 14, stated this legislation authorizes an "Appeal to Heaven" special license plate. This plate is based on the pine tree flag flown by George Washington's naval cruisers at the onset of the Revolutionary War in 1775, and is similar to the design reflected in the U.S. Postal Service's 1968 six-cent stamp, which commemorated the flag.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Shepherd** made a motion to send **H 235** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Tanner (14)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- H 78:** **Rep. Mickelsen**, District 32, stated this legislation would grant the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) the authority to issue mobile driver's licenses (MDL) and identification cards (ID), which would be stored in the credential holder's mobile phone. She explained, this new electronic driver's license and ID is optional, not mandatory, and requires that individuals still carry the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) issued physical license or ID card. She commented, since 2020, with the DMV's Skip the Trip online portal, online transactions have increased from approximately 250,000 transactions to around 1.7 million transactions, demonstrating the interest is there.

**Rep. Mickelsen** explained, nationally, the American Automobile and Motor Vehicle Association recognized the need to create a safe, standardized, and consistent way for personal information to be used in the digital world, and have met those high standards established by the International Standards Organization, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and the International Electro-technical Organization. The Department of Homeland Security, National Security Agency, Transportation Security Administration, and law enforcement agencies currently use this same secure technology. The MDL cannot be used for voter identification, but, for example, can be used at pharmacies, bars, liquor stores, and for cigarette purchases. To date, over 70% of the states have either implemented or are in the process of implementing the MDL.

In response to a committee question regarding the use of the MDL for voter identification based on the language on page 6, lines 36-37, **Rep. Mickelsen** stated to make clear voters cannot use an MDL for voter identification purposes, she will be requesting the committee approve an amendment to **H 78** clarifying that issue.

In response to a committee question regarding the cost for businesses to acquire the app to read MDLs, **Rep. Mickelsen** responded the app is free. She also noted for an individual to update information, for example, a change of address, that too is free, whereas now there is a fee to update the physical card.

In response to a committee question regarding data security, **Rep. Mickelsen** responded there are many security standards in place to prevent identity theft and emphasized an MDL will be just as safe as a passport.

**Stacey Satterlee**, Idaho Bankers Association, spoke in support of **H 78**. She stated safety and security is their priority and believe this new technology shows potential by having a real-time method to identify a customer's credentials. She continued, the MDL is compliant with standards that apply to banking and having these standards incorporated into this technology would help to reduce identity fraud.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Handy** made a motion to send **H 78** to General Orders and requested a roll call vote.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Petzke** made a substitute motion to send **H 78** to General Orders with the following committee amendments. On page 12, add a new Section 8 to include **Section 34-1113, Idaho Code, Identification at the Polls**. In **Section 34-1113, subsection (1)**, after the word "department" add: "except that such driver's license shall not include an electronic driver's license or identification card issued by the Idaho Transportation Department pursuant to **Section 49-315A or 49-2444A, Idaho Code**."

**Rep. Petzke** spoke to his motion stating this is a good bill and the first step in moving towards a digital platform. He noted, there will be more steps in the future to fully implement it.

Discussion on the motion was held. Committee members expressed concern about the security of personal information with the MDL and ID cards and how it might not be the right time to move forward with this technology. There was also a comment about how change can be difficult and uncomfortable, and it will take time to adjust, noting the next generation is wanting these types of features.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 8 AYE, 6 NAY, and 2 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Holtzclaw, Crane (12), Handy, Petzke, Mickelsen, Pohanka, Gannon, and Green. Voting in opposition to the motion: Chairman Palmer, Reps. Mitchell, Shepherd, Hill, Boyle, and Harris. Reps. Monks and Clow were absent/excused.**

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:19pm.

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Representative Palmer  
Chair

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Tracey McDonnell  
Secretary