

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2026

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Boyle, 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 1:30pm.

RS 33220: **Rep. Raymond**, District 31, stated this proposed legislation will move the design responsibilities for the Idaho Agriculture license plates from the Food Producers of Idaho to the Idaho Ag in the Classroom Board of Directors.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to introduce **RS 33220**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33288: **Rep. Pickett**, District 27, stated this proposed legislation is about road safety. He explained differential speed limits, most often in the form of forcing heavy trucks to travel slower than passenger cars, increases traffic turbulence, which leads to higher crash risks due to, for example, tailgating or road rage. He remarked, when variances in speed occur at excessive speeds, such as on interstate highways, the severity of crashes increases dramatically, therefore, traveling at the same speeds would result in less incidents and accidents.

MOTION: **Rep. Harris** made a motion to introduce **RS 33288**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33279: **Rep. McCann**, District 6, stated this proposed legislation revises provisions regarding the Appaloosa Horse license plate. First, all fees collected for the Appaloosa Horse license plate will no longer go directly to the Appaloosa Horse Club because they moved out of state. Fees will now go directly to the Appaloosa Museum and Heritage Center Foundation. Second, the purpose of the funding will now be for funding education and programming related to any horse in the state of Idaho. And finally, this proposed legislation allows vehicles with a registered maximum gross weight up to 26,000 pounds to also be able to purchase this plate. This accommodates the larger pickups and trailers hauling horses weighing more than the current limit of 16,000 pounds.

MOTION: **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to introduce **RS 33279**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33244: **Rep. Petzke**, District 21, stated this proposed legislation fixes an issue discovered in **H 553** during the hearing before the committee on February 4, 2026. The issue concerned words removed from the definition of "resident" found on page 2, line 7. **RS 33244** reinstates the words "for the purposes of vehicle registration."

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a motion to introduce **RS 33244**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

- RS 33285:** **Rep. Handy**, District 27, stated this proposed legislation will protect the state of Idaho from issuing commercial driver's licenses (CDL) to individuals coming from foreign countries or other states with learner's permits. CDL's will only be issued to those who complete the entire CDL process in Idaho.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 33285**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**
- RS 33361:** **Rep. Mitchell**, District 6, stated this House Resolution states the Transportation and Defense committee has completed its work on the Idaho Transportation Department's Administrative Rules.
- MOTION:** **Rep. Monks** made a motion to introduce **RS 33361** and recommend it be sent directly to the Second Reading Calendar. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Mitchell** will sponsor the bill on the floor.
- ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:50pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary