

MINUTES
HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 20, 2026

TIME: Upon Adjournment

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:** Vice Chairman Mitchell, Representative(s) Monks, Crane(12), Hill

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 12:35pm.

MOTION: **Rep. Pohanka** made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 16 and March 18, 2026 meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 927: **Rep. Sauter**, District 1, explained, in 2018, the Idaho Legislature changed the enforcement procedures for unpaid traffic citations and for unpaid misdemeanor/felony traffic related incidents. The practice of suspending driving privileges for unpaid fines was eliminated. Instead, the courts were empowered to collect unpaid fines through civil procedures. Since this change, drivers have learned their unsafe driving practices had fewer consequences. Currently, the unpaid fines total \$24 million, or \$3 million per year, which is up from \$1 million per year before the change. The Idaho courts estimate there are over 125,000 drivers with unpaid traffic fines. He stated, this legislation will empower the courts and the Idaho Department of Motor Vehicles the ability to suspend driving privileges when a person with traffic related fines is 60 days or more delinquent in paying fines. This legislation also provides up to six months to pay off unpaid fines, it allows for issuance of a temporary restricted permit for a person to travel to and from work, and it will not be considered a violation for a person to drive, when under suspension, for medical emergencies.

MOTION: **Rep. Mickelsen** made a motion to send **H 927** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Matthew Conde, AAA Idaho, spoke **in support** of **H 927**. He stated there is a good balance in this legislation and a lot of mercy built in regarding payment plans. He also noted the driving to work component and medical emergencies exceptions, and said this legislation is fair while demonstrating laws are important.

Rep. Green declared Rule 80 because her husband is a law enforcement officer.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:** **Chairman Palmer** called for a vote on the motion. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Sauter** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:47pm.

Representative Palmer
Chair

Tracey McDonnell
Secretary