

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2017

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Brackett, Vice Chairman Nonini, Senators Winder, Hagedorn, Den Hartog, Lodge, and Harris

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senators Keough and Buckner-Webb

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the Committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Brackett** convened the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) at 1:33 p.m. He noted that Senators Keough and Buckner-Webb were excused from today's meeting.

DISTRIBUTION: **LHTAC's "FY 2016 HB 312 Full Report".** **Chairman Brackett** noticed that Jeff Miles, Administrator of the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC), was located in the audience and invited him to present the report.

Mr. Miles said that in H 312 (2015), LHTAC was charged with collecting and reporting on how the local highway jurisdictions (cities, counties, and highway districts) spent the revenue issued to them with the passage of H 312 (2015). LHTAC was created to lighten the burden of government, so **Mr. Miles** said he merely added columns to the local road and State report that LHTAC already produces in order to comply with H 312 (2015). **Mr. Miles** explained that pages 1 and 2 were summaries of the jurisdictions covered; page 3 was a pie chart of the data collected at the time the report was printed; and finally in the report were the spreadsheets of data from cities, counties, and highway districts. He noted that the spreadsheets indicate those jurisdictions that had not yet submitted their data. **Mr. Miles** concluded that some jurisdictions were so small that when the clerk retired in one city, the information needed for the report could not be found until an extensive search had been done. (**NOTE: The report referenced here can be found in the official record book for the Committee's 2017 Legislative Session in the Legislative Services Library.**)

Chairman Brackett reminded the Committee that LHTAC's involvement of preparing the report was not a suggestion, it was a requirement in the law. He emphasized that local jurisdictions need to get their data to LHTAC in a timely fashion.

Senator Hagedorn asked how difficult it would be to add a column showing how many road-miles each jurisdiction represented. **Mr. Miles** indicated it would not be difficult as LHTAC has that information and he would share it with the Committee members.

Chairman Brackett wanted to know if that could be updated for miles added in the future. **Mr. Miles** indicated it could.

Senator Den Hartog noticed that some jurisdictions were quite small and asked if LHTAC encouraged pooling resources. **Mr. Miles** replied some are already doing that. As an example, he said there are 13 highway districts in Idaho County that partnered together on seal coats; they then pooled their resources and bought a used paint truck from the Nampa district.

Chairman Brackett added that he knew of a small city that routinely gave its funds for highways to their county to work on their roads. **Mr. Miles** said that was common.

Senator Hagedorn said he had heard that two highway districts had combined. **Mr. Miles** said that in Idaho County the Good Roads Highway District did not have individuals willing to run for Commissioners so they merged with the Union Independent Highway District. LHTAC was working with them to combine their funding streams and administrations.

Chairman Brackett asked what was the incentive for two highway districts to consolidate. **Mr. Miles** said there is a tax issue. Highway districts develop a taxing authority over time and when you have highway districts that tax at varying rates, they are reluctant to consolidate. In the law, when two highway districts combine, the lower taxing rate must be the rate of the resulting highway district. If this "poison pill" result were not a factor, he believes several highway districts would combine. **Chairman Brackett** summarized to accommodate the local highway districts, legislation would be appropriate.

S 1086

Allows adequate time to fill a vacancy on a highway district board.

Chairman Brackett invited Vice Chairman Nonini to present **S 1086**.

Vice Chairman Nonini said that when there is a vacancy on a highway district's commission, currently Idaho Code allows only 10 days to fill the vacancy. Changes occur on page 1, lines 28 and 33, where 10 is replaced by 30. This is in keeping with vacancies for other publicly elected officials.

MOTION:

Senator Hagedorn moved to send **S 1086** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Vice Chairman Nonini** said he would carry the bill on the floor.

ADJOURNED:

With no other business before the Committee, **Chairman Brackett** adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

Senator Brackett
Chair

Gaye Bennett
Secretary