

MINUTES
SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 27, 2024

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW53

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Okuniewicz, Senators Winder, Hart, Forsmann (Carlson), Toews, Trakel, Rabe, Just

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Vice Chairman Den Hartog

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 Okuniewicz** called the meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee (Committee) to order at 1:30 p.m.

H 531 DRIVER'S EDUCATION - Amends existing law to allow parents to provide on-road driver's training for their children and to require the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance to make certain driver education curriculum available to all Idaho students. Senator Bjerke stated this legislation would allow qualified parents and legal guardians to serve as private educators for class D driver's training instruction permits. **Senator Bjerke** also stated **H 531** aimed to benefit citizens in rural areas who faced long travel distances to access required public or private driver's education instructors, ensuring equal opportunities for children of all income levels by reducing expensive fees, and additionally, the bill now included stipulations, such as living in a rural school district or a district without driver's education courses.

Senator Toews commented he was in favor of this program when it was offered universally to everyone and asked if it was now being narrowed down to rural areas, what percentage of rural school districts would this program apply to. **Senator Bjerke** responded by addressing the rural guidelines which were fewer than 20 enrolled students per square mile within the district's boundaries and the county population of less than 25,000 residents.

MOTION: **Senator Winder** moved to send **H 531** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Toews** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 532 IDENTIFICATION CARDS - Amends existing law to remove a requirement that an individual must not have possessed a driver's license for the last six months to be eligible to receive a certain identification card. Senator Winder stated this legislation would address the issuance of identification cards for individuals without a driver's license, and emphasized that they must be citizens or a permanent resident. **Senator Winder** stated this would reduce the waiting period to less than six months to provide a timely solution for individuals lacking traditional forms of identification, such as a driver's license, to ensure eligibility for voting.

Senator Rabe asked if an individual would be restricted from getting an ID card based on their past possession of a driver's license and what would be a scenario in which someone only needed an ID card. **Senator Winder** responded a scenario could be a student without a driver's license or senior citizen who may no longer drive due to personal, family, or medical reasons.

Senator Just asked if there was a difference between the voter ID card and the ID card for people who do not drive who are visually impaired. **Senator Winder** stated he was not familiar with the visually impaired ID card, but stated the objective was to establish reasonable standards to meet identification requirements for personal identification, especially during voting.

TESTIMONY:

Phil McGrane, Idaho Secretary of State, spoke in favor of **H 532**. **Secretary McGrane** gave additional background of the details of this legislation stating **H 340** now required a form of identification when registering to vote. **Secretary McGrane** explained there was a concern with the six month window requirement, examples highlighted included a student losing their driver's license within six months of turning 18 and individuals moving from another state. The emphasis was on ensuring everyone has access to voter registration.

DISCUSSION:

Senator Hart asked the question if there was a charge for the ID for voting purposes there could be a poll tax. **Secretary McGrane** responded and clarified that requiring payment for obtaining an ID for voter registration could be considered a poll tax and the objective was to ensure that every Idahoan had the opportunity to register to vote.

MOTION:

Senator Just moved to send **H 532** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Hart** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

H 533

MOTOR VEHICLES - Amends existing law to provide that commercial motor vehicles may idle and use refrigeration in certain circumstances. **Representative Handy** stated this bill addressed transportation and parking regulations for trucks, specifically focusing on noise and pollution. **Representative Handy** also stated the bill aimed to establish guidelines for minimizing truck noise during parking, allowing idling only when the driver is sleeping or when refrigeration units are necessary for preserving perishables or pharmaceuticals making the overall goal to clarify rules for truck parking, idling, and to promote quieter practices.

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Okuniewicz asked if trucks were currently allowed to park and where this legislation would enable them to park in the future. **Representative Handy** stated there was another section of code that addressed the preferred parking areas, but the preferred locations were designated truck stops and the bill aimed to discourage individual truck drivers with refrigeration units from parking in residential neighborhoods and leaving the units running all night.

Chairman Okuniewicz followed up to ask if a truck could park in a neighborhood currently. **Representative Handy** stated driver's would park in a neighborhood overnight if it was not marked. **Chairman Okuniewicz** asked would this legislation change that. **Representative Handy** stated yes, the industry would know driver's would not be able to keep their truck idling in those areas.

Senator Just asked if there was any part of code or legislation that addressed if a municipality could regulate where idling trucks could park particularly in an urban area next to a truck stop. **Representative Handy** stated yes, the municipality could regulate the urban area outside of a truck stop, but could not regulate an idling truck in the truck stop due to the safety and financial concerns of the perishable goods.

TESTIMONY: **Allen Hodges**, President and CEO, Idaho Trucking Association spoke in favor of **H 533**. **Mr. Hodges** stated this legislation focused to allow truck drivers to idle their vehicles when legally parked, especially with refrigerated trailers carrying time-sensitive items like pharmaceuticals or food. **Mr. Hodges** stated the goal was to prevent rejection of such shipments due to trailer shutdowns, particularly in extreme weather conditions. **Mr. Hodges** also stated the intent of this legislation was not to restrict cities from regulating truck parking, but to clarify and address safety concerns of the drivers, perishable goods, and communities.

DISCUSSION: **Chairman Okuniewicz** asked for clarification of what problems this legislation would solve. **Mr. Hodges** responded stating the objective would be to create harmony in regulations due to the noise ordinances and restrictions in different jurisdictions. **Mr. Hodges** also stated the proposed change aimed to address both commerce and safety issues associated with such noise levels.

TESTIMONY: **Dexton Lake**, Idaho Farm Bureau spoke in favor of **H 533**. **Mr. Lake** offered full support of this bill to keep food products secure and stated it would keep the supply chain resilient and safe.

MOTION: **Senator Hart** moved to send **H 533** to the floor with a **do pass** recommendation. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Just** moved to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2024. **Senator Rabe** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Rabe** moved to approve the Minutes of February 6, 2024. **Senator Winder** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Okuniewicz** adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Senator Okuniewicz
Chair

Alicia Fowler-Rynearson
Secretary