

MINUTES  
**HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Monday, February 14, 2022

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room EW40

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Palmer, Vice Chairman DeMordaunt, Representatives Gestrin, Youngblood, Dixon, Harris, Holtzclaw, Monks, Syme, Blanksma, Addis, Manwaring, Mitchell, Okuniewicz, Shepherd, Gannon, Rubel, McCrostie

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** Representative(s) Addis

**GUESTS:** The sign-in sheet will be retained in the secretary's office; following the end of the session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

**Chairman Palmer** called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Manwaring** made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 8 and February 10, 2022, meetings. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**H 528:** **Jason Kreizenbeck**, Lobbyist for FedEx presented **H 528**. This bill makes changes to code dealing with personal delivery devices (PDDs). The amendments deal with allowable weight and the places PDDs can operate. **Evan Oneto**, Senior State and Local Government Affairs Representative for FedEx, said this bill allows a greater range of technology providers to participate in the emerging PDD market, while still keeping safety as the paramount goal for the industry and the public. In answer to committee questions, Mr. Oneto said the device can go 8 miles per hour and stop on a dime. It can carry up to 100 pounds of cargo across a five mile radius from its home base location. "Roxo" is easily visible to pedestrians and drivers. It comes loaded with safety equipment including lights, turn signals, a signaling screen, GPS positioning and advanced machine learning algorithms to help it detect and avoid obstacles. Among other things, it comes with a speaker and microphone so operators can communicate with people in its vicinity when needed. Mr. Oneto added, "Roxo" has the ability to communicate with first responders.

Speaking **in opposition** to the bill were **Benn Brocksome**, Ada County Highway District; **Cynthia Gibson**, Idaho Walk Bike Alliance and **Julie Hart**, Idaho Association of Cities. Issues they raised were with language in the bill that could restrict counties, municipalities, or highway districts from adopting regulations for the safe operation of PDDs, functional width of sidewalks, shy space and comparable width of "Roxo" to motorized wheelchairs. Some committee members expressed concerns with active or remote monitoring, logistics, and weight of the machine.

**ORIGINAL MOTION:** **Rep. Monks** made a motion to send **H 528** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Rep. Okuniewicz** declared Rule 80 citing a possible conflict of interest.

**Rep. Monks** spoke to the motion saying cities and counties are authorized to adopt regulations for the safe operation of PDDs. **Reps. Rubel** and **Gannon** expressed concerns over how the bill is written.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** **Rep. Rubel** made a substitute motion to send **H 528** to General Orders.

**VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

**Chairman Palmer** called for a vote on the substitute motion to send **H 528** to General Orders. **Motion failed by voice vote.**

**VOTE ON  
ORIGINAL  
MOTION:**

**Chairman Palmer** called for a vote on the original motion. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Rubel and Syme** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Monks** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**H 527:**

**Rep. Mitchell** presented **H 527**. This legislation allows for the designation of U.S. citizen on drivers' licenses. In answer to committee questions, Rep. Mitchell stated this designation is completely optional and is different from the Real ID or Star card.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Okuniewicz** made a motion to send **H 527** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Rubel, Gannon and McCrostie** requested they be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. Mitchell** will sponsor the bill on the floor,

**H 571:**

**Rep. Christensen** presented **H 571**. The legislation would allow school bus drivers to drive 70 miles per hour on interstate highways. Many bus drivers feel driving 65 miles per hour on the interstate is a danger to them and their passengers, especially in congested traffic. The committee was concerned about a possible conflict with Board of Education Rule. They asked whether school buses are classified as trucks or commercial vehicles. The general opinion of the committee was they needed more information and time to consider the implications of approving the proposed legislation.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. McCrostie** made a motion to hold **H 571** for time certain, February 16, 2022. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 29469:**

**Rep. Mendive** presented **RS 29469**. The proposed legislation would allow qualifying parents and legal guardians to be private educators for Class D Driver's Training Instruction Permits. Rep. Mendive said the proposed legislation would benefit residents of rural areas who must travel long distances to take their children to required public or private driver's education courses.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 29469**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 29568:**

**Rep. Green** presented proposed legislation to create a Dig Once Policy and encourage the installation of broadband across Idaho.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. DeMordaunt** made a motion to introduce **RS 29568**. **Rep. Green** declared Rule 80 stating a possible conflict of interest. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**RS 29434:**

**Rep. Shepherd** stated the purpose of the proposed legislation is to allow off-highway vehicles to operate on the shoulder of the road, where the posted speed limit is greater than 60 miles per hour. This would apply to state highways only.

**MOTION:**

**Rep. Blanksma** made a motion to introduce **RS 29434**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

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Representative Palmer  
Chair

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Joyce McKenzie  
Secretary