

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass and Be Placed on the Consent Calendar
Vote:	7 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Buckley, Butler, Gilman, Read, Smith G., Tomei, Beyer
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Judith Callens, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	1/19, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies definition of “registration weight” to include loaded weight. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difference in registration fees for passenger vehicles and vehicles weighing more than 10,000 pounds
- Impact of heavier trucks on roads
- Unloaded weight may allow a truck to register as a passenger vehicle

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The 2005 Legislature increased the registration weight for passenger vehicles from 8,000 to 10,000 pounds. All vehicles over 10,000 pounds must declare the weight of the vehicle at registration. ORS 803.430 establishes the procedures for determining the relevant registration weight of the heavier vehicles, however, the statute only references a “combined weight” of 10,000 pounds which could be interpreted as the empty weight of a combination of vehicles. Current law, therefore, allows single vehicles that weigh more than 10,000 pounds when loaded to register as passenger vehicles (such as UPS or FedEx delivery trucks).

According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, the registration weight is intended to be the “loaded weight” of a single vehicle, or the “combined weight” of a combination of vehicles including their collective load. Registration fees for these vehicles are higher than for passenger vehicles to account for the higher degree of wear and tear on Oregon roads caused by heavier vehicles.

HB 2271 clarifies the difference between “loaded weight” and “combined weight” for purposes of vehicle registration.