

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays: 0
Exc.: Deckert
Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Clarifies that registration weight for single vehicles is a loaded weight. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difference in registration fees for passenger vehicles and vehicles weighing more than 10,000 pounds
- 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. Unlike passenger vehicles, 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 does not apply to single vehicles (such as UPS or FedEx delivery trucks). Current law, therefore, allows such single vehicles that weigh more than 10,000 pounds when loaded to register as passenger vehicles because their unloaded weight may be under the threshold.

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 on Oregon roads caused by heavier vehicles.

HB 2271 includes the term “loaded weight” to cover single vehicles and “combined weight” to cover combination vehicles for purposes of vehicle registration.