

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Read  
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Johnson

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Fiscal statement issued

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Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 19 – 1 – 1

House – Yeas: D. Edwards, Galizio, Garrard, Jenson, Morgan, Nathanson, Nolan, Shields  
– Nays: Hanna  
– Exc:

Senate – Yeas: Bates, Carter, Gordly, Johnson, Morse, Nelson, Schrader, Verger, Westlund, Whitsett, Winters  
– Nays:  
– Exc: Devlin

Prepared By: Susie Jordan, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: 4/20/07

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Revises Oregon Motorist Information Act. The measure:

- modifies definitions of non-conforming sign, reconstruct, maintenance, and relocate;
- deletes provisions for business identification signs, waiver, on-premise signs and directional signs;
- changes provision with respect to removal and payment of just compensation for legal signs;
- allows signs lawfully constructed and in existence on the effective date to be granted a permit;
- specifies permit holder is not entitled to relocation credit if outdoor advertising permit is canceled;
- allows person to maintain sign without a permit;
- authorizes issuance of investigative demands by Department of Transportation;
- authorizes issuance of permits for outdoor advertising signs placed on benches or shelters for use by customers of mass transit districts;
- prohibits outdoor advertising signs on all scenic byways;
- specifies that a sign may be located within a portion of highway from which a scenic byway designation has been removed subject to legal limits;
- specifies that relocation credits may be used no more than 100 mile from the existing site as of September 1, 1977;
- requires Travel Information Council to obtain consent from agency that owns land where a travel plaza is to be erected;
- specifies appeals to be conducted as contested case hearings;
- provides Oregon Department of Transportation rulemaking authority; and
- creates Sign Task Force and requires report to interim legislative committee no later than November 1, 2008.

The measure declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Supreme Court Decision
- Risk of losing federal highway funds
- Legal Requirement for Signs
- History of Sign Banks; impact on competition
- Interim Task Force and Membership
- Fiscal Impact

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No Amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The Oregon Supreme Court ruled that certain provisions of the Oregon Motorist Information Act (OMIA) unfairly limited free speech by implementing regulations based on sign content and was therefore unconstitutional. HB 2273A revises the Act such that regulation is based on whether the sign is located at the site of a business open to the public or whether compensation is received for sign display.