

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Beyer, Kruse, Prozanski, Walker, Burdick
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Miranda Plummer, Counsel
Meeting Dates: 3/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases driver's license suspension to ten years when it was suspended because the driver failed to appear for a traffic-related court proceeding, failed to pay a fine or to obey a court order.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- License renewal as enforcement mechanism
- Whether the Department of Motor Vehicles receives notice of driver sanctions
- When fine is paid, suspension is lifted

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current law provides that if a person convicted of a traffic offense fails to pay the fine, the person's license is suspended until the person pays the fine or for five years (whichever is earlier). Because Oregon now requires persons to renew driver's licenses every eight years, this creates a problem. A person can be convicted of a traffic offense, refuse to pay the fine, and have their license suspended for five years. Once this five-year period ended, the person can automatically renew the license (since they only have to do this every eight years) without paying the fine.

HB 2321 extends the suspension period from five years to ten years to address this problem.