

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure  
Vote: 3 - 0 - 2  
Yeas: George L., Monnes Anderson, Metsger  
Nays: 0  
Exc.: Deckert, Starr  
Prepared By: Janet Adkins, Administrator  
Meeting Dates: 5/21

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Allows retractable studded tires to be treated as traction tires under Oregon Transportation Commission rules. Defines retractable studded tires. Allows tire dealer to sell tires equipped with non-lightweight studs if studs are retractable.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- New retractable stud tire technology
- Air pressure technology to extend and retract studs from inside vehicle
- Benefits to consumers by allowing one set of tires for year-round use
- Whether studs are in contact with the road surface on a worn tire
- Life span of tire
- Damage to roads caused by use of studded tires
- Marketing potential as early as winter 2007/2008

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

**BACKGROUND:** Under ORS 815.165(7), vehicles may use tires with metal objects (studs) only between November 1 and April 1. The Department of Transportation may shorten or lengthen this period in any area of the state as required for the safety of the traveling public. Due to the damage known to be caused by studded tires, Oregon law prohibits sale of studs other than lightweight studs defined by weight of stud and size of the tire.

Retractable studded tires have been developed and patented by an Oregon resident. When activated from inside the vehicle, the technology releases a small amount of air from the tire's main air chamber into a secondary chamber which extends the studs. Retraction can also be activated by the release of air from the secondary chamber. The tires have been lab tested, have passed a federal performance standard, and are being road tested.

House Bill 2567-A allows retractable studded tires to be treated as traction tires under Oregon Transportation Commission rules when used between November 1 and April 1. The measure further allows tire dealers to sell tires equipped with non-lightweight studs if the studs are retractable.

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*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*