

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do pass as amended and be printed engrossed

Vote: 5-3-1

Yeas: Gelser, Read, Rosenbaum, Witt, Barnhart

Nays: Berger, Butler, Olson

Exc.: Bruun

Prepared By: Mazen Malik, Economist

Meeting Dates: 3/6, 4/27, 6/5

WHAT THE BILL DOES: Allows counties, by the vote of the governing body, to raise registration fees for vehicles residing in the counties.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- County transportation need.
- The reductions of transportation revenues in some counties as a result of the federal forest compensation.
- The level of the local registrations.
- The role of the voters and the ability to challenge the new fee by vote.
- The different agreements with cities, Tri-Met and METRO. The "Spider-web".
- Cities ability to increase gas taxes.

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS: Deletes the requirement for the county to refer the increase to the voters, and makes the vote by the county commission sufficient for the registration increase.

BACKGROUND:

Registration fees of \$27 annually are collected by DMV on a two-year cycle. Current law has allowance for counties and districts to raise their own registration fees. However, the need to simplify the process and explicitly change the limits of the ceiling of the fee will help the counties in utilizing this allowance. The impact of the elapse of the federal forest safety net payments provided many counties with shortages in their road funds. This is an enabling legislation for up to the limit of the state registration fee, and doesn't increase the fee to any county at this time. The county commission will still have to enact the new registration fee before any impact on the local level occurs.