

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Deckert, George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Janet Adkins, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/10

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates a Class A traffic violation for violating maximum vehicle weight limits if an enforcement officer determines the vehicle was eligible for a variance permit. Provides that all other weight limit violations are punishable by penalties established in Schedule I under ORS 818.430.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Permits required for trucks with loaded weights over 80,000 pounds
- Violating maximum weight limits without a permit carries a penalty of 24 cents per pound overweight
- Particular issues with farm trucks

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

**BACKGROUND:** Under current law, trucks operating over 80,000 pounds require a permit from the Department of Transportation, as well as local jurisdiction authorizing such operations. The purpose of the permit is to inform the truck driver of unsafe, impractical, or impassable road conditions for these heavier trucks. The cost of a truck permit with a loaded weight between 80,000 and 105,500 pounds is \$8.00 for operating on the State highway system and certain local jurisdictions may charge an additional \$2.75 to \$8.00 to operate on their city or county roads. These permits are valid for one year. Vehicles over 105,500 are issued permits for single trips only.

Truck drivers that are unable to produce a valid permit at weigh stations are cited for operating in excess of authorized weight. If a truck is operating at 105,500 pounds but can not produce a permit, the current fine is 24 cents per pound over 80,000 pounds or \$6,120. The Oregon Trucking Association believes such a fine is disproportionate to the offense of failing to obtain the permit. House Bill 2902-A establishes a new violation for failure to obtain a permit as a Class A traffic violation for trucks operating at legal weights between 80,000 and 105,500 pounds. The Class A traffic violation penalty under these circumstances is a \$495 fine.

5/15/2007 1:47:00 PM

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