

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by prior reference
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 2
<b>Yeas:</b>	Buckley, Butler, Gilman, Tomei, Beyer
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Read, Smith G.
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Judith Callens, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/2

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs fees collected from the issuance of custom vehicle registration plates to be allocated to the Oregon passenger rail program. Reinstates authority to collect custom license plate fees upon renewal.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Revenue generated by custom license plates; not part of State Highway Fund
- Current use of revenue for litter patrol activities; will continue as allowed use of State Highway Fund
- Oregon, Washington and Amtrak cost responsibilities for providing service between Eugene and Vancouver, BC
- Unintended removal of authority to collect custom plate fee upon renewal

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Replaces original measure.

**BACKGROUND:** The fee for custom license plates is \$25 for each year of the vehicle's registration period. Since vehicle owners are not required to have custom plates, but rather choose to do so, the fees are not part of the constitutionally dedicated State Highway Fund. The fees generate about \$4.3 million each biennium. Currently, fees from custom license plates are used to pay for litter patrol activities on highways. Litter patrol activities are an allowed use of the State Highway Fund.

Oregon sponsors two daily round-trip passenger trains between Eugene and Portland. In addition to Eugene and Portland, the Amtrak Cascades trains stop in Albany, Salem and Oregon City and then continues on to Seattle and Vancouver B.C. Oregon spends approximately \$9 million of state General Fund each biennium to support the train service. The state of Washington pays for most other trips between Portland and Vancouver, BC and Amtrak pays the remainder. HB 2982A partially funds Oregon's sponsorship of the Amtrak Cascades trains between Eugene and Portland and results in \$4.3 million of General Fund no longer needed towards funding passenger rail service and would be free for other uses.

The Oregon Department of Transportation's authority to collect the fee at registration renewal was inadvertently removed in the 1999 legislative session. Renewal fees generate about 67 percent of the custom plate fee revenue. HB 2982A reinstates the department's ability to collect custom license plate fees upon registration renewal.

4/13/2007 3:15:00 PM

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