

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued
FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 1 - 2
Yeas: Buckley, Gilman, Read, Tomei
Nays: Beyer
Exc.: Butler, Smith G.
Prepared By: Judith Callens, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 5/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes a “share-the-road” license plate as a nonprofit group plate under the existing group plate program. Adds a \$10 surcharge for the two-year registration period and directs the revenue generated into accounts designated by the Bicycle Transportation Alliance and Cycle Oregon. Directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to work with the two bicycle groups on design of the plate.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Life of Jane Higdon; fatal accident while cycling
- Low one-time surcharge to encourage use of registration plates as education/awareness tool
- Need for bicyclists and motor vehicle drivers to adhere to traffic laws and to watch for other road users

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Ten states currently offer share-the-road license plates. The purpose of the plates is to raise awareness of the presence of cyclists on the road and the additional precautions that drivers and cyclists can take to prevent accidents and save lives. Such precautions include reducing speed and giving cyclists additional space and time when passing. Bicycles should be considered vehicles and given the appropriate right of way. The Department of Transportation (ODOT) recently initiated a share-the-road public education campaign that complements the educational purpose of the proposed license plate.

Senate Bill 789 was introduced at the request of Tom Jefferson in memory of his wife, who was killed while cycling. Cycling clubs have expressed their willingness to pay the \$28,000 in implementation costs to ODOT for computer programming, plate design, and production; \$10,000 of this amount is refundable if 1,000 plates are sold in the first year. The one-time \$10 surcharge in SB 789-A is in addition to the standard registration plate fee.