

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	10 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Berger, Boone, Edwards D., Gilman, Kahl, Schaufler, Weidner, Beyer
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/17

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Amends statutory requirement that Department of Environmental Quality keep some of its motor vehicle pollution control system inspection centers open until 9:00 p.m. on some days to require that some centers stay open beyond 5:00 p.m. some days of the week. Changes statutory exemption from offense of failure to follow rail crossing procedures for high-risk vehicles in ORS 811.465(4) by specifying that the exemption applies only in business districts and by deleting the provision stipulating that the exemption applies only on roads with designated speeds of 20 miles per hour or less.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Customer service at air quality testing centers
- Conforms state and federal law regarding crossing of industry tracks

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) operates seven clean air stations in the Portland area and Rogue Valley. Testing began in the Portland region in 1975, and in the Rogue Valley region in 1986. DEQ inspects vehicle exhaust emissions to identify vehicles that are producing more air pollution than expected. Vehicle owners who live in applicable areas must have their vehicle tested every two years upon renewal of the vehicle's registration. Current law requires that DEQ keep at least some of its stations open until 9:00 p.m. on at least some nights of the week in order to accommodate vehicle owners who cannot make it to testing stations during daytime business hours. House Bill 2564-A revises the requirement that stations remain open until 9:00 p.m. to a requirement that they remain open past 5:00 p.m. DEQ indicates that the flexibility granted by the measure will allow the agency to provide services more efficiently by better allocation of staff time.

House Bill 2564-A also amends the statutory requirements related to high-risk vehicles crossing industry railroad tracks in business districts. Currently the law requires that such vehicles must obey special crossing procedures on crossings with designated vehicle speeds of 25 miles per hour or higher. The measure amends the exemption to specify that the special crossing requirements do not apply to crossings within business districts, conforming state law to federal law.