

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure with Amendments and Be Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Metsger

Nays: -

Exc.: Verger

Prepared By: Jim Stenbridge, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires that Department of Environmental Quality extend operating hours of some motor vehicle pollution control system inspection centers beyond 5:00 p.m. some days of the week. Deletes requirement that inspection centers stay open until 9:00 p.m. Extends exemption, from industry-track rail-crossing procedures for high risk vehicles, to business districts. Eliminates exemption in other districts where designated speed is 20 miles-per-hour or less. Exempts out-of-state-licensed automobile dealers and their authorized representatives from Oregon vehicle-dealer licensing requirements when participating in a vehicle auction held by a certified vehicle dealer.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Experience with evening and Saturday demand for car testing
- Synchronizing Oregon definitions with federal law for trucks carrying hazardous cargo
- Eligibility for participation in vehicle auctions

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Exempts out-of-state-licensed automobile dealers and their authorized representatives from Oregon vehicle-dealer licensing requirements when participating in a vehicle auction held by a certified vehicle dealer.

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. The 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. HB 2564-B 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.

HB 2564-B also changes 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.

HB 2564-B also clarifies eligibility for participation in vehicle auctions and consignment.

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