

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 5 - 0 - 0

Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger

Nays: -

Exc.: -

Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 1/29, 2/26

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Changes class of offense of operating a motorcycle without driver license motorcycle endorsement from Class B to Class A traffic violation. Increases maximum penalty from \$360 to \$720. Authorizes court to provide option, for person cited for operating motorcycle without motorcycle endorsement, of completing motorcycle rider education course and obtaining motorcycle endorsement instead of instead of paying Class A penalty.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Penalty increase
- Crash, fatality, and motorcycle endorsement statistics
- Alternative ways of getting compliance with motorcycle endorsement requirement
- Benefits of education, including moose-avoidance education in Alaska
- Number of riders convicted of riding without endorsement who continue to ride without endorsement
- Possibility of offering alternative of attending class and obtaining endorsement instead of paying fine

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Authorizes court to provide option for person cited for operating motorcycle without motorcycle endorsement, of completing motorcycle rider education course and obtaining motorcycle endorsement instead of instead of paying Class A penalty.

BACKGROUND: To obtain the motorcycle endorsement to an Oregon driver's license, individuals under the age of 21 must complete a TEAM OREGON Basic Rider Training (BRT) Course. The course addresses such issues as effective turning, braking maneuvers, protective apparel selection, obstacle avoidance, traffic strategies, and maintenance. The cost of the course is about \$200. Individuals over the age of 21 must pass a motorcycle endorsement knowledge test and pass an on-cycle drive test. The additional cost of a motorcycle endorsement averages about \$10 per year.

According to Oregon Department of Transportation statistics, of about 3,300,000 vehicles registered in Oregon (2007), about 120,000 are motorcycles (about 3.6 percent). Of 3,123,000 licensed drivers (2008), about 199,000 have motorcycle endorsements (about 6.4 percent). Of 44,162 motor vehicle crashes reported in 2007, motorcycles were involved in 743 (about 1.6 percent). Of 455 traffic fatalities in 2007, 51 involved motorcycles (11.2 percent). Of 27,849 individual traffic-crash injuries in 2007, 724 involved motorcycle crashes (2.6 percent).

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