

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:	5/6, 5/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires the Department of Transportation to reimburse commercial driver training schools for department-certified courses in traffic safety education. Directs the Department of Transportation to reimburse the Department of Human Services (DHS) for the cost of providing traffic safety education to children in legal custody of DHS and in foster homes. Declares an emergency and takes effect July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reduction in accidents involving teen drivers since inception of driver education programs
- Goal of increasing access to driver education
- Availability of assistance to low-income students
- Equity between public and private providers of driver education

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Directs the Department of Transportation to reimburse the Department of Human Services (DHS) for the cost of providing traffic safety education to children in legal custody of DHS and in foster homes.

BACKGROUND: Driver education courses offer the opportunity to improve driving knowledge and skills by training with professional instructors, and are available to both new and experienced drivers. Driver education courses in Oregon are offered by public schools, private schools and commercial driver training schools. Of these, only public schools currently qualify for reimbursement through the Student Driver Training Program, which reimburses up to \$210 per student participating in an approved course while the student is preparing to obtain a driver license for the first time. The program, administered by the Department of Transportation, is supported by a \$6 fee on all new and renewal Oregon driver licenses.

Senate Bill 125-A expands eligibility for reimbursement from the Student Driver Training Program to include students who receive their training at commercial driver training schools. The measure also provides that the Department of Human Services will be reimbursed by the Department of Transportation for the cost of providing traffic safety education to children in state custody and in foster homes.