

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 5 - 0 - 0
Yeas: George, Schrader, Starr, Verger, Metsger
Nays: -
Exc.: -
Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 1/29, 2/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to reimburse commercial driver training schools for traffic safety education courses certified by the department. Authorizes ODOT to set tuition amount for courses offered by commercial driver training schools seeking reimbursement. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2009.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Traffic safety statistics
- Licensing process for new drivers having completed driver training
- Source of financing for driver training reimbursements
- Number of students seeking training compared with number of slots available
- Decisions by some Oregon school districts to discontinue driver training
- History of actual reimbursement rates
- Interference with private businesses setting prices
- Competition and tuition price setting among school and commercial providers

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: SB 125 broadens eligibility for Student Driver Training Program reimbursement to include students at commercial driver training schools. The program reimburses up to \$210 per student participating in an approved course when the student is preparing to obtain a drivers license for the first time. SB 125 makes all commercial ODOT (Transportation Safety Division)-approved driver education providers eligible for driver education reimbursement.

While public schools, private schools and commercial drive schools all offer driver education courses, only public schools currently qualify for Student Driver Training Program reimbursement. The program is supported by a \$6 fee paid when an Oregon driver license is issued or renewed.