

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass with amendments to the A-Engrossed Measure. (Printed B-Engrossed)

Vote: 5 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Atkinson, Burdick, Edwards, Girod, Beyer

Nays: 0

Exc.: Starr

Prepared By: Richard Berger, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Directs Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to convene work group on reports of persons with persistent, episodic or other cognitive or functional impairment consisting of members appointed by ODOT Director. Specifies issues to be reviewed by work group. Specifies duties and responsibilities of work group. Directs work group to report recommendations to appropriate legislative interim committee(s) no later than October 1, 2012. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ability to test cognitive skill set needed to drive
- Burden on health care providers to notify the Department about individuals with impairments
- Ability to find experts to serve on the work group

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds language referring to ‘persistent, episodic or other’ cognitive or functional impairments. Adds a representative from Oregon State Police to the work group.

BACKGROUND: According to the National Older Driver Research & Training Center (NODRTC) at the University of Florida, the older population is the fastest growing segment of the United States population. Persons over 65 comprised 13 percent of the total population in 2000, and this number is expected to increase to 20 percent by 2030. In the United States, there are currently about 38 million licensed drivers over age 65, and by 2024, one in four drivers will be aged 65 or older.

NODRTC notes that many Americans have not planned for “retirement-from-driving;” and without support, many of these older people, once they are no longer able to drive, may also lose their ability to live independently in their community.

Currently, Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 735-074-0050) establishes the program that requires mandatory reporting to the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) of the Oregon Department of Transportation, by physicians and health care providers, those drivers who have functional and cognitive impairments that may affect the person’s ability to drive.