

4/8/13

Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court Street N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97301

Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is William W. Gill and I work as a Patrol Sergeant for the City of Hubbard Police Department. This letter is to show my support for House Bill 2384 for the following reasons:

There are different ways your Oregon Driver's License can be suspended or revoked – one is at the infraction level which happens when you get caught driving while suspended (DWS) and other reasons.

Then there is the highest level called "criminal driving while suspended misdemeanor"—when a driver commits a crime while driving a motor vehicle.

A person who is suspended at the infraction level can only be fined and have their driving privileges suspended. Subsequent violations for DWS only result in additional fines and a lengthened suspension period.

If and when a person has resigned themselves to being suspended and has no fear of financial obligations, they often continue to drive without concern of further consequences. They also sometimes become habitual or serial offenders and have license suspensions in double digit numbers.

When a law enforcement officer comes in contact with a person who is suspended at the infraction level, due to some case law and lack of teeth in state law, we are limited to issuing a citation and clearing the stop with the knowledge that the driver will likely continue driving as soon as the officer is out of sight.

HB 2384 strengthens state law and says if you are a chronic offender, and you've been stopped and convicted of DWS for one of these serious offenses listed in section (2) (a-c) one or more times depending on the level of crime, then within 3 years you commit one of those same offenses again, police can initiate the forfeiture proceedings including towing and impounding the vehicle.

I often have the fear that one of these drivers will be involved in a serious injury or fatal accident while having a copy of a DWS conviction in their pocket.

If House Bill 2384 becomes law, it will provide a vital element in an officer's ability to get these drivers off the road and also provide a serious deterrent to such irresponsible behavior.

Please show your support and vote in favor of this Bill.

Sincerely,



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