



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor

Department of Transportation

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DATE: February 12, 2013

TO: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee

FROM: Amy Joyce, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: HB 2421

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 2421 authorizes the Department of Transportation (ODOT) to notify the Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) of a customer's name and address if the person is a member or veteran of the uniformed service and has given authorization for the release of that personal information.

DISCUSSION

House Bill 2421 requires ODOT to notify ODVA when it receives specific information (and authorization) from a member or veteran of the uniformed service who submits an application for driver license, ID card, vehicle title or registration. The only information ODOT may transfer to ODVA is the name and address of the person. Existing federal and state laws on confidentiality, as well as the terms of the bill, require that the person him- or herself authorize that transfer of information.

The bill requires ODOT to provide this data to ODVA at least once per month. Several options exist on how to implement these provisions, such as making the process more or less automated or manual. That choice impacts the costs both up front and on-going. More automation up front increases start-up costs but would minimize costs over time. More manual processes reduce the initial cost, but maintain higher costs over time as the manual process would continue. The process proposed in HB 2421 is not an eligible use of Highway Funds under Oregon's Constitution; therefore an alternate funding source must be identified to implement the bill.

Driver license and ID card transactions by their nature involve only one customer, and the vast majority require an in-person transaction at a DMV field office. Because ODOT may provide the information to ODVA only with express written permission of the eligible customer, transactions involving driver license or ID card will be relatively efficient. Conversely, because nearly half of all personal (non-business) registration applications involve multiple owners, and the majority are submitted by mail, the ability to have an authorization signed by the relevant person will be less efficient. By including vehicle-related transactions in this new provision it is possible the non-military owner will mistakenly sign the authorization, or the wrong owner information mistakenly will be sent to ODVA. If the opportunity was available only in one-on-one transactions (driver license and ID card issuance and renewal), the military person him- or herself would necessarily be present for the required signature as well as to immediately receive information about the opportunity. This change would significantly reduce the cost of the program.

Because of space limitations on ODOT's current licensing and title and registration applications, it may be necessary to increase the size of these forms to a legal-size document in order to provide space for the member or veteran to indicate interest and permission to obtain veterans' services information. These increased forms costs could be significant.

SUMMARY

The bill requires ODOT to notify ODVA of contact information for members or veterans of the uniformed service if the person authorizes that release. Highway Funds cannot be used to implement or maintain this new process. ODOT has identified ways to make the process less costly and more efficient.