

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

House Committee on Transportation &amp; Economic Development

**REVENUE: Minimal revenue impact****FISCAL: Minimal expenditure impact****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Troy Rayburn, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/1, 4/3, 4/17

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Establishes process for issuance of certificate of approval for operating autonomous vehicles on highways of state. Prescribes vehicle and operator requirements for autonomous vehicles.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Example of rapid pace of innovation in technology
- Need to avoid a “patch-work of regulations” across the United States
- Beginning of two-year regulation process in California
- Definitions relating to autonomous vehicles are found in Florida statute
- Would the “operator” need to hold a valid driver’s license
- California law does not require valid driver license / just an operator
- Google - any sort of study now would be premature and leave out fast advancing technology
- Impact of various weather conditions not fully assessed or tested as of yet
- Miles test operated or driven = half million / none on Oregon roads and highways
- Google has not interacted or worked with Oregon universities or research centers in on autonomous vehicles
- Auto industry concerns are safety of “operator” and passengers, liability, and coordination nationally for consistency

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** The -1 amendment authorizes the Oregon Department of Transportation to study and make recommendations about the necessary regulatory actions need to ensure safety in testing and operation of autonomous vehicles and to ensure that Oregon is ready to be an early adopter of emerging autonomous vehicle technology.

**BACKGROUND:** House Bill 2428 will direct the Oregon Department of Transportation to report to the Legislative assembly about policy changes necessary to prepare Oregon for autonomous vehicle technology for consumer, research, and manufacturing purposes.

An autonomous vehicle is a vehicle capable of sensing its environment and navigating on its own through the use of radar, lidar, GPS, and computer vision. A human may choose a destination, but is not required to perform any mechanical operation of the vehicle. The vehicle can identify appropriate paths, obstacles, and signage. Many automakers have begun testing driverless car systems, including GM, Ford, Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen, Audi, BMW, Volvo, and Cadillac. The US military has been developing its own technology and sponsoring contests to drive innovation since the late 1980s. Nevada became the first state to provide for the licensing and testing of autonomous vehicles. In May 2012, a Toyota Prius, modified with Google’s experimental technology, was licensed by the Nevada DMV. California and Florida have also adopted legislation addressing the issues raised by this new technology.

Google’s driverless test cars have about \$150,000 in equipment, including a \$70,000 lidar (laser radar) system. Google has driven over 300,000 miles without an accident. Autonomous vehicles could provide a new avenue to independence for seniors and people with disabilities and provide unique economic development opportunities.

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***This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.***

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