

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER:

House Committee on Transportation & Economic Development

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: No Subsequent referral

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: Troy Rayburn, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Eliminates requirement that person with limited vision condition take driver test every two years.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Issues discussed in the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:

- History of the limited vision driving program
- Process for notifying Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division of vision test results

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Passed out of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation 5-0-1. Passed the Senate chamber 28-0-2.

Since 2004, Oregon statute has provided an opportunity for persons with limited vision conditions who use a bioptic telescopic lens, and who meet other established criteria, to be eligible for restricted driving privileges in Oregon. To be eligible, the individual must have a visual acuity (with best lens correction) no better than 20/80 and no worse than 20/200; no diagnosis or prognosis that could result in deterioration below 20/200 acuity; a visual field of at least 120 degrees horizontally and 80 degrees vertically; and ability to be aided by a bioptic telescopic lens when operating a motor vehicle. Driving privileges under the program are limited to daylight hours, unless a vision specialist indicates on a report submitted to the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) of the Oregon Department of Transportation that the vision impairment does not prohibit safe operation at night. Licensure requires vision exam, fitting with a bioptic telescopic lens, enrollment in a rehabilitation training program, passing the written knowledge test, and passing the DMV drive test.

A bioptic telescopic lens is a pair of vision-enhancement lenses with extreme magnification used to improve distance vision for those with severely impaired eyesight. They usually take the form of head-mounted eyeglasses similar in appearance to goggles or binoculars, or are designed to attach to existing eyeglasses.

One additional requirement for the limited vision condition program is that the driver must provide new certification from a licensed vision specialist every two years, and must also retake and pass a DMV-provided drive test every two years. Senate Bill 288 deletes the requirement that the driver retake the drive test every two years, provided that their vision specialist provides DMV with documentation that their vision still falls within the range allowed for the program.