77th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2013 Regular Session   **MEASURE: SB 345**

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY   **CARRIER:**

House Committee on Transportation & Economic Development

REVENUE: No revenue impact
FISCAL: No fiscal impact
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: No subsequent referral

Action:
Vote:
Yeas:	
Nays:	
Exc.:	

Prepared By: Troy Rayburn, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Exempts pedestrians on certain narrow residential roadways from offense of pedestrian with improper position upon or improperly proceeding along a highway. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:
Issues discussed in the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:
- Definition of "narrow residential roadway"
- Signage requirements
- Provides cities the flexibility to make change if they wish to do so

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 345 passed out of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation 4-0-2. Passed out of the Senate chamber 27-1-2.

ORS 801.368 defines "narrow residential roadway" as a two-way roadway located in a residential district that is no more than 18 feet wide at any point between two intersections or between an intersection and the end of the roadway. The term was codified with the passage of House Bill 2297 (2007), which established a speed limit of 15 miles per hour for streets in residential areas that lacked the spacing to allow safe passage of vehicles at the statutory standard of 25 miles per hour for residential streets. The measure was introduced in response to a number of traffic accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists on such narrow roadways.

Under current law, pedestrians traveling on a roadway are required to utilize a sidewalk or shoulder if one is available. Senate Bill 345 establishes that the road authority may post signs on narrow residential roadways to notify drivers that pedestrians may be present on or along the road in question. Where such signs are posted, pedestrians would be allowed to proceed on or along the narrow residential roadway, provided they did not create a traffic hazard.