

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

House Committee on Transportation & Economic Development

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: No subsequent referral****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Troy Rayburn, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows a child under seven years of age to operate a Class III all-terrain vehicle on public lands if the child meets Rider Fit guidelines established by the State Board of Parks and Recreation. Specifies that children under 16 years of age must meet Rider Fit guidelines to operate Class III all-terrain vehicles on public lands.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Issues discussed in the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:

- Features of the Rider Fit program
- Increased focus on rider safety in recent years
- ATV Advisory Committee activities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 238 passed out of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation 4-0-2 and passed on the Senate floor 22-7-1.

Oregon recognizes four classes of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs): Class I includes traditional ATVs and three-wheelers up to 1,200 pounds in weight with saddle seats and handlebars; Class II includes heavier vehicles that do not fit into Class I or Class IV, such as passenger vehicles operating off-road; Class III represents off-road motorcycles; and Class IV encompasses vehicles up to 1,800 pounds with a steering wheel and non-straddle seating, often referred to as “side by sides.” An ATV permit issued by the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation is required to operate an ATV on public land; permits cost \$10 and are valid for two years. In addition, on-line safety training is required for all riders of Class I, III and IV ATVs, and hands-on rider training is required for all ATV riders age 15 and under.

Individuals who wish to operate a Class I ATV on public lands who are under 16 years of age are required to meet minimum physical size requirements in relation to their vehicle, known as “Rider Fit,” to demonstrate that they are physically capable of operating the vehicle. Rider Fit is determined by three key measurements: brake reach (first joint of middle finger able to extend beyond the brake lever and clutch); leg length (knee must bend at least 45 degrees while sitting with feet on the pegs); and grip reach (must be distinct angle between upper arm and forearm with hands on handle bars without leaning forward). Riders must also be able to turn the handle bars through their complete turning range while maintaining grip on the handle bars and maintaining throttle and brake control.

Senate Bill 238 specifies that riders of Class III ATVs on public lands who are under 16 years of age must meet Rider Fit guidelines established by the State Parks and Recreation Department. The measure repeals the existing prohibition on operators under the age of seven from operating Class III ATVs, and expands the Rider Fit requirements to include that age group.

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