77th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – 2013 Regular Session MEASURE: SB 535

CARRIER:

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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: 4/29, 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Removes limitation on width of rearview mirrors used on vehicles.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

Issues discussed in the House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development:

- House-keeping tool to clean up the statute
- Distinction between type of vehicle/truck and mirror
- Safety inspections / enforcement of the right size of mirror

Issues discussed in the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:

• Makes Oregon statute consistent with national standards

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill 535 passed out of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation 6-0-0 and passed on the Senate floor 30-0-0.

Current law limits the maximum allowable width of rearview side mirrors to no more than five inches from each side of the vehicle in excess of the maximum allowable vehicle width outlined in ORS 818.080. The maximum allowable width for all vehicles is eight feet, six inches, meaning that the maximum width from tip to tip of rearview mirrors is nine feet, four inches. However, enforcement officers for the Motor Carrier Transportation Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) report that they are seeing trucks built with side mounted rearview mirrors that extend as much as 13 inches from the side of the vehicle, thus putting them in violation of the statute.

Senate Bill 535 eliminates the maximum allowable mirror width, but makes no change to the maximum allowable vehicle width. This change makes Oregon statute consistent with federal truck size and weight regulations (23 CFR 658.16), which specify that rear view mirrors are excluded from the measured width of a commercial motor vehicle.