

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 6 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Edwards, Girod, Monroe, Starr, Thomsen, Beyer
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 4/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes Department of Transportation to increase rate of reimbursement for reduced-tuition traffic safety education courses provided to low-income students by public schools, commercial driver training schools and counties. Directs Department to adopt rules governing reduced tuition and reimbursement. Requires providers that receive tuition reimbursement to notify students of availability of reduced tuition. Authorizes Department to offer incentives to providers who offer traffic safety education courses in specified geographic areas and to provide or contract for courses under certain circumstances. Authorizes Department to sanction providers of traffic safety education courses that violate applicable departmental provisions or rules.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reduction in accidents, injuries and fatalities among teen drivers that take driver education classes
- Efforts to increase access to driver education in underserved areas
- History of driver education in Oregon
- Importance of making driver education affordable to all

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Teen drivers represent approximately 6.7 percent of the driving population; however, as drivers they are involved in more than 13 percent of fatal and serious injury crashes. Oregon's graduated driver license program is designed in part to help drivers increase their knowledge and skill behind the wheel.

Persons age 16 and 17 qualify to test for a driver license in one of two ways: they may complete a driver education course approved by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and practice driving with a licensed adult for 50 hours, or they may opt out of driver education and practice driving with a licensed adult for 100 hours. In either case, the individual gains the necessary behind-the-wheel experience by first obtaining a *Class C instructional permit*; once the driver is 16 or 17 years old and has accumulated the necessary experience, they may qualify for a *Class C provisional license*, which restricts the time of day and numbers of ages of passengers that may accompany the driver. About 25,000 teens received a driver license each year; of those, approximately 7,000 complete an ODOT-approved driver education program.

Oregon subsidizes driver education programs, offered through private companies, public high schools, community colleges, education service districts and counties, in order to lower the cost to the student. The average cost, after subsidy, ranges from no cost to \$350, depending on the provider. The subsidy is supported through a \$6 fee on every Oregon driver license issued or renewed by ODOT's Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV). There are currently 56 approved providers, providing access at 158 sites throughout Oregon.

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