



**OREGON STATE SENATE**  
**900 COURT ST NE**  
**SALEM, OR 97301**

**Sobriety Checkpoints SB 13**  
**Senator Rod Monroe**  
**February 16, 2015**

SB 13 are the guidelines according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration on the use of Sobriety Checkpoints. SB 13 will only go into effect if SJR 3 is passed by the voters of Oregon. SJR 3 will ask the voters to allow law enforcement to use Sobriety Checkpoints to evaluate drivers for signs of alcohol or drug impairment. Checkpoints are publicized in advance and signs are posted warning drivers that a checkpoint is ahead. Sobriety Checkpoints are a deterrent to driving impaired. The cars are pulled over in a special sequence, as every third or fourth car. If the voters approve SJR 3 enforcement agencies would have the discretion to use sobriety checkpoints.

38 states use Sobriety Checkpoints and have seen a reduction in highway fatalities and serious injuries. Fewer trips to the ER would save Oregonians millions of dollars in health care costs. These checkpoints only delay a motorist for 2 or 3 minutes. The primary advantage of sobriety checkpoints is as a deterrent. When motorists think they may be stopped by a Sobriety Checkpoint they are much less likely to drive impaired.

Sobriety checkpoints were conducted in Oregon prior to 1986. A woman in Eugene was stopped at a sobriety checkpoint in 1982. She sued and lost her case in Lane County Circuit Court. She appealed and the Oregon Court of Appeals reversed the Circuit Court decision. A year later the Oregon Supreme Court upheld the Court of Appeals decision. The reason given was that Oregon did not have standards of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration guidelines in place. SB 13 will establish those standards. Since 1986 law enforcement agencies have not been allowed to conduct Sobriety Checkpoints in Oregon.

Sobriety Checkpoints are an important tool to keep our streets safe from dangerous impaired drivers. This is even more crucial with the passage of recreational marijuana last November.

Drunk driving is all time low but drugged driving is significantly up. Impaired drivers are often impaired by a combination of marijuana and alcohol. With the passage of measure 91 this combination will likely increase even more. The primary goal of Sobriety Checkpoints is not to arrest people, but rather to deter people from committing DUI. Recent polling shows that about 65% of Oregon Voters approve reinstating Sobriety Checkpoints. It will only happen with a positive popular vote.

