

REVENUE:
FISCAL:
SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO:

Action:

Vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

Exc.:

Prepared By: James LaBar, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires use of headlights when windshield wipers are on. Punishes offense by maximum fine of \$250.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Currently Oregon law states that headlights must be used between sunset and sunrise, and when there is less than 1,000 feet of visibility. Unfortunately, estimating 1,000 feet of visibility is difficult. Nineteen states presently have laws requiring headlights to be on when windshield wipers are in use: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia. Senate Bill 546 would bring Oregon law in line with this national trend. The measure will increase the visibility of vehicles in inclement weather and lessen some the guess work out of when headlights are required.