



DATE: April 1, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

FROM: Tom McClellan, DMV Administrator

SUBJECT: SB 751, monetary donation for Anatomical Donor cause

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Transportation has assisted in signing up Oregonians as anatomical donors for decades, in a successful partnership with Donate Life Northwest. SB 751, which would add collection of monetary donations by DMV to provide education and outreach, would have a significant impact on department resources.

DISCUSSION

Since 1975, Oregon's DMV has partnered with Donate Life Northwest (formerly the Oregon Donor Program) in the important work of signing up Oregonians to be anatomical donors. When an Oregon resident age 15 or older, applies for a license, permit or identification (ID) card, DMV asks if they would like to be a donor. If the customer agrees, DMV adds a "D" (donor) designation to their license, permit or ID card, and to their customer record. At regular intervals, DMV electronically transfers to the organization the information on anatomical donors. In this way, the organization receives updates for their registry of potential donors, as provided by law. DMV field staff receives training from Donate Life Northwest on the importance of organ and tissue donation, and how best to ask customers if they would like to choose to become a donor.

In addition to the active solicitation of customers to become anatomical donors, DMV includes program information in the driver manual, displays information in our field offices, and includes a link to Donate Life Northwest on the website. As of March 2015, over 1.7 million Oregonians have an active donor code on their DMV credential. None of this activity is an allowable use of the Highway Fund. Instead, the department pays for this work from the Transportation Operating Fund (TOF) – the small non-highway portion of the ODOT budget.

SB 751 adds a substantial new duty to the department. The bill would require DMV to accept monetary donations when customers apply for a new or renewed driver license, permit, or ID card. The bill would require DMV to also accept monetary donations when a customer renews their vehicle registration on-line. The bill directs the funds to statewide outreach and public education related to organ donation. Both the field office and online components of the bill will require significant and expensive computer system changes. The field office portion of the bill will require additional time with customers explaining the option and, for some, completing the transaction. None of this work is Highway Fund eligible, and there is no funding source identified in the bill.

SUMMARY

The department contributes substantial time and financial resource aiding in the worthy effort of bringing new anatomical donors into the state registry every day. We work well with our partner, Donate Life Northwest, in educating people through the daily one-to-one contact we bring to our customers in the field office and by the educational materials we have in our offices, our driver manual, and on our web site. The department pays for these efforts with TOF money, further helping the cause. The addition of this new duty would be a significant impact on our IT resources and the on-going work of field office staff assisting customers.