

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

MEASURE: SB 533 A
CARRIER: Sen. Monroe

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 03/04/15
Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)
Meeting Dates: 03/04
Vote:
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen
Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits motorcycle drivers and bicyclists to proceed at stop light in situations when the traffic control device shows a steady red signal, is controlled by a vehicle detection device, the driver comes to a complete stop and waits for the traffic control device to complete on full cycle, and the device fails to detect the presence of the motorcycle and change to a green signal.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Red-light safety camera enforcement issues
- Safety concerns with motorcycles and bicycles waiting at intersections for protracted lengths of time
- Additional risks with motorcycles and bicycles proceeding through red-light intersections

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Permits bicyclists to proceed at stop light under same conditions.

BACKGROUND:

“Safe on Red” laws, which allow motorcyclists to legally proceed at red lights, have been enacted in approximately fourteen states, including Washington in 2014. Two significant issues surrounding these types of laws are the differences between weight-bearing and induction loop signals and the various conditions for the driver at the red light prior to proceeding safely through red light.

“Dead Red” laws, which let cyclists ride through a red light if there is no traffic, if the cyclists have stopped for set periods of time and if the light is not changing because its sensor does not register bicycles, have been enacted in approximately thirteen other states.