

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development

MEASURE: HB 3255 A
CARRIER: Rep. Davis

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/10/15

Action: Do Pass As Amended And Be Printed Engrossed.

Meeting Dates: 03/30, 04/10

Vote:

Yeas: 6 - Bentz, Gorsek, Hack, Lively, McKeown, McLain

Exc: 1 - Davis

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Replaces requirement for rear reflector or light device when operating bicycle during limited visibility conditions with requirement for red light on rear of bicycle.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Prevalence of cycling in Oregon
- Importance of visibility in dark and limited visibility conditions
- Types of bicycles to which measure would apply
- Cost of bicycle lights
- Percentage of riders already using such equipment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Replaces original measure.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 815.280 outlines equipment requirements for operating bicycles on Oregon highways. The required equipment includes brakes, front lights and rear reflectors or lights; the light/reflector requirement apply when operating the bicycle in limited visibility conditions. The statute also prohibits installation of whistles or sirens on bicycles, except those used by police officers.

House Bill 3255-A replaces the current requirement that bicycles be equipped with either a reflector or lighting device with the requirement for a red light visible from all distances up to 600 feet from the rear of the bicycle when traveling in limited visibility conditions such as darkness or fog. The offense remains a Class D traffic violation, punishable by a maximum fine of \$250.