

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

MEASURE: SB 495
CARRIER: Sen. Bates
Sen. Monroe

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/20

Vote:

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Monroe, Riley

Nays: 2 - Girod, Thomsen

Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Eliminates exception to safety belt laws that allows person to not use safety belt if all seating positions in vehicle are occupied.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Safety statistics with wearing and not wearing a safety belt
- Traveling in the back of a pick-up truck
- Agricultural-use exemptions for traveling between farm fields
- Antique and historic vehicles limited number of seat belts

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 811.25 currently allows an exemption to the seatbelt requirement if all the seatbelts in a car are occupied. Senate Bill 493 proposes to remove that exemption that allows a person to not use safety belt if all seating position in the vehicle are occupied.

The catalyst for the measure was a local accident when a mother driving a group of teenagers in a car that did not have all of the children in seatbelts. She was acting lawfully because she was carrying more passengers than she had seatbelts in the vehicle. Tragically, the children not in seatbelts were ejected and died.