

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

MEASURE: SB 533 A
CARRIER: Rep. Davis

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/27/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 03/30, 04/27

Vote:

Yeas: 7 - Bentz, Davis, Gorsek, Hack, Lively, McKeown, McLain

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Permits motorcycle operators and bicycle operators to proceed at a stop light under certain conditions when vehicle detection device fails to detect the presence of the motorcycle or bicycle.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- In-road technology that triggers activation of signal change
- Potential hazards to cyclists waiting at stoplights
- Similar law enacted recently in Washington
- Concerns about improper use of maneuver
- Available technology that can be placed on vehicle to trigger light change
- Current workarounds for cyclists unable to proceed at intersection

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

“Safe on Red” and “Dead Red” laws, allow motorcyclists to legally proceed at red lights if it is safe to do so, after coming to a complete stop and waiting for a certain specified period, typically one or two complete cycles of light changes, and also to yield to oncoming traffic. Because motorcycles are lighter and contain less metal than passenger vehicles, they do not always trigger the sensors used in some intersections to cause the signal to change and the vehicle to proceed. Sixteen states have instituted some version of Safe on Red laws, most recently Washington in 2014.