

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/27/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments To The A-Eng Bill. (Printed B-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 05/27

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Exc: 1 - Beyer

Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows dispensaries for Class 1 flammable liquids located in counties with population less than 40,000 residents to permit self-dispensing of such liquids after 6:00pm and before 6:00am. Specifies that dispensaries may continue to operate as self-service dispensaries if population of county increases above 40,000 residents.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Unintended consequences of allowing self-service during broad range of conditions
- Pilot project for self-service throughout state
- Benefits of full-service stations
- Personal stories about needing fuel and service stations being closed during the late evening and early morning hours

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Modifies when self-dispensing fuels can occur from when no owner, operator or employee of the dispensary is present to after 6:00pm and before 6:00am.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon is one of two states, along with New Jersey, that do not allow for self-dispensing of gasoline at retail fueling stations. Oregon's prohibition dates back to 1951. ORS 480.315 outlines legislative findings regarding the prohibition, which include: the need for training for safe dispensing of Class 1 flammable liquids; hazards faced by untrained persons dispensing such liquids; difficulties of some persons, such as senior citizens, in self-dispensing fuel and the lack of ability to ensure full-service fuel dispensing; health and environmental factors; the tendency for significantly higher cost of full-service fuel dispensing in states that allow self-service dispensing; the correlation between self-service dispensing and reduced availability of automotive repair at fueling stations; and employment considerations.

House Bill 3011B specifies that, in counties with a population less than 40,000 residents, the owner or operator of a retail fueling station may, if they choose to do so, permit non-employees to operate and dispense fuels into a motor vehicle or other retail container between the hours of after 6:00pm and 6:00am.