

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Rules

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 06/23/15

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

Meeting Dates: 06/23

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum

Exc: 1 - Beyer

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates offense of failure to keep vehicle in right lane on roads with posted speed greater than 55 miles per hour. Specifies offense does not occur when traffic is moving slower than normal flow of traffic. Designates offense as Class D traffic violation punishable by maximum fine of \$1,000. Exempts drivers of vehicles governed by ORS 811.325. Outlines conditions under which driving in the far left lane is allowable.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impact on traffic of slower vehicles in left lane
- Impact on driver safety and road safety
- Methods for educating drivers
- Examples of traffic patterns in which left lane driving is allowable
- Implementation and enforcement of new provisions

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Creates offense of failure to keep vehicle in right lane on roads with posted speed greater than 55 miles per hour. Changes penalty for failing to yield left lane from Class B to Class D traffic violation.

BACKGROUND:

Under current statute, certain motor vehicles are required to remain in the right-most lane while traveling along a multilane highway. Unlike many other states, Oregon does not designate the left-most lane of multilane highways as a passing lane. In states that do so, a driver can be cited for failing to move back into the right-hand lane after passing a slower vehicle moving in the same direction. However, ORS 811.325 specifies that campers, trailers and vehicles with a registered weight of over 10,000 pounds must be driven in the right lane except to pass, to turn left, to avoid emergency conditions, to allow vehicles to merge from an onramp, or when necessary to follow traffic control devices.

House Bill 3414-B expands the applicability of the prohibition against traveling in the left-most lane to all vehicles. The measure limits applicability to roads with posted speeds greater than 55 miles per hour, and would not apply during traffic congestion.