

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER: Sen. Boquist

Senate Committee On Rules

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Action Date: 06/25/15

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

Meeting Dates: 06/25

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes Oregon Department of Transportation to establish, by rule, change of address requirements for driver licenses, driver permits and identification cards. Replaces requirement that applicants under 18 years of age provide proof of enrollment from school with requirement that parent or guardian certify that applicant is enrolled in school, except in cases where applicant's privileges have been suspended for withdrawal from school. Eliminates moped-restricted driver license. Removes requirement that out-of-state applicants for motorcycle endorsement take motorcycle knowledge test in Oregon if applicant already has such endorsement in another state. Makes issuance of fuel tax exemption emblems under Road Usage Charge Program optional. Deletes requirement that mileage of vehicles participating in Road Usage Charge Program be rounded up to the next whole mile. Removes exemption for specified vehicle with maximum speed of 35 miles per hour for off-road use and that are operated on public highways in any one calendar year number of miles that does not exceed 15 percent of total number of miles vehicle is operated for that calendar year. Exempts person operating motor vehicle with combined weight of 26,000 pounds or more from weight-mile tax if motor vehicle is for purpose of emissions research and development and United States Environmental Protection Agency has provided testing exemption from complying with federal emission requirements; applies to taxes imposed on or after January 1, 2015. Takes effect 91st day after adjournment.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of amendment

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Makes issuance of fuel tax exemption emblems under Road Usage Charge Program optional. Deletes requirement that mileage of vehicles participating in Road Usage Charge Program be rounded up to next whole mile. Removes exemption for specified vehicle with maximum speed of 35 miles per hour for off-road use and that are operated on public highways in any one calendar year number of miles that does not exceed 15 percent of total number of miles vehicle is operated for that calendar year. Exempts person operating motor vehicle with combined weight of 26,000 pounds or more from weight-mile tax if motor vehicle is for purpose of emissions research and development and United States Environmental Protection Agency has provided testing exemption from complying with federal emission requirements, applies to taxes imposed on or after January 1, 2015. Takes effect 91st day after adjournment.

BACKGROUND:

The Driver and Motor Vehicle (DMV) Services Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation is responsible for licensing more than three million Oregonians to operate motor vehicles on public roads in the state. DMV's mission is to promote driver safety, protect financial and ownership interests in vehicles and to collect revenue to finance Oregon's transportation system.

House Bill 2465-B makes several changes to statutes relating to driver licenses and driving privileges in Oregon. First, the measure specifies that the Department shall identify, by rule, what constitutes proof of address to include, but not be limited

to, utility bill, tax return, financial record, proof of insurance or health benefits card, selective service card, mortgage document or lease agreement. Qualifying documents may be provided in original form, copy or digital copy, or through third-party address verification system.

The measure replaces the requirement that persons under age 18 who are applying for driving privileges, either for the first time or for reinstatement, must provide DMV with a form provided by their school verifying that they are currently attending school, with a requirement that a parent or guardian certify that the applicant is enrolled in school. The form currently must be obtained by the school, school district or educational service district. The measure specifies that the form must be provided only in cases where the individual is seeking to reinstate driving privileges following suspension for withdrawing from school.

House Bill 2465-B removes the restricted Class C driver license which allows operators age 16 and older to operate mopeds on public roads. A moped is defined in statute as a vehicle equipped with a power source other than an electric-assisted bicycle, or a motor-assisted scooter that operates on two or three wheels, uses a saddle seat and is capable of speeds not exceeding 30 miles per hour with a drive system not requiring clutching or shifting.

In 2013, Senate Bill 810 established a voluntary program through which up to 5,000 vehicles may pay a per-mile road usage charge (RUC) in lieu of paying the motor fuel tax. Moneys collected from the RUC are to be deposited in the State Highway Fund. The RUC program is scheduled to go into operation in July 2015. House Bill 2465-B makes two changes to the voluntary RUC program: the issuance of fuel tax exemption emblems is made permissive, as opposed to mandatory; and the requirement that reported mileage be rounded up to the next whole mile is eliminated.

House Bill 2465-B also removes a detailed exemption list from statute to keep Oregon's statutes in compliance with federal laws. Finally, the measure creates a new provision that exempts person operating motor vehicle with a combined weight of 26,000 pounds or more from weight-mile tax if the motor vehicle is for the purpose of emissions research and development and the United States Environmental Protection Agency has provided a testing exemption from complying with federal emission requirements; applies to taxes imposed on or after January 1, 2015.