

## **SB 344 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **House Committee On Transportation Policy**

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**Prepared By:** Tim Walker, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 4/26

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires snowmobiles and certain all-terrain vehicles to cross a highway at an intersection or more than 100 feet from an intersection. Establishes the All-Terrain Vehicle Access Routes Advisory Committee and directs the Oregon Transportation Commission to designate all-terrain vehicle access routes throughout Oregon in consultation with the Advisory Committee. Specifies that persons may operate all-terrain vehicles within a portion of the highway right of way designated as an all-terrain vehicle access route. Provides an exemption from vehicle equipment requirements if the vehicle operator is crossing a portion of a highway right of way designated as an all-terrain vehicle access route. Requires operator to possess an Oregon driver license or permit and to wear a motorcycle helmet when operating on an all-terrain vehicle access route.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Comparison to authority for farm implements to operate on highways
- Many all-terrain vehicles now include most features of a road-equipped vehicle
- Fiscal impact of measure
- Eventuality where posted signs are knocked down or stolen
- Only designed to allow for crossing or traveling short distances

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

All-terrain vehicles, or ATVs, come in several classes: Class I ATVs are generally three- or four-wheeled, weigh less than 1,200 lbs., use straddle seats and handlebar steering; Class II ATVs are larger vehicles, and often are off-road capable versions of street-legal vehicles; Class III ATVs are off-road motorcycles; and Class IV ATVs, often called side-by-sides or utility terrain vehicles, are smaller than Class IIs but typically have similar structure, such as non-straddle seating and steering wheels. ATVs are required to be licensed with the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation for operation on public lands, but typically are not authorized for on-road use.

Senate Bill 344-A allows the Oregon Transportation Commission to permit the incidental use of an ATV within a designated segment of highway right of way for segments of highway situated in a county with a population of 20,000 residents or fewer. Such segments are required to be identified by signs posted to give notice of the designation.

Senate Bill 344-A also creates an All-Terrain Vehicle Access Routes Advisory Committee, comprised of seven members: six appointed by the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (OPRD) including two ATV users; one city or county representative; one law enforcement agency representative; one public member; one nonvoting

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OPRD representative; and one representative of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) as a nonvoting member. The Advisory Committee is tasked with evaluating access routes for ATVs on portions of highway right of way, conducting field reviews and public hearings, and making recommendations to ODOT regarding establishment of highway access routes. The Advisory Committee will be provided staff support from OPRD.