

SB 34 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 4/27, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Expands "move over law" to include all motor vehicles stopped and displaying required warning or hazard lights, or when person is using emergency flares or posting emergency signs. Provides exemption if the stopped vehicle is in designated parking area.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- When a driver is allowed to slow down versus move over
- Current law is not applicable for road workers or utility workers
- Statistics of persons injured by passing vehicles while on side of road

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Allows motorist to either slow down or change lanes, without requiring assessment of whether lane change is unsafe before choosing slow down option.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's current "move over law" requires a person operating a motor vehicle to change lanes to a non adjacent lane when approaching an emergency vehicle, roadside assistance vehicle, tow vehicle, or ambulance that is stopped and displaying warning lights. If it is not possible to change lanes, the operator must reduce speed by at least five miles per hour under the speed limit. A violation of this law is a Class B traffic violation. Senate Bill 34 expands this law to cover all motor vehicles that are stopped and displaying required warning or hazard lights, or when a person is indicating distress by using emergency flares or posting emergency signs. SB 34 also adds an exemption if the stopped motor vehicle is in a designated parking area.