

SB 35 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/13, 2/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases the threshold amount that must be met before a person is required to submit a motor vehicle accident report.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ways that crash data is used by Department of Transportation
- Ways that crash data is used by insurance providers
- High cost of even minor accidents that involve airbag deployment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

[-2 amendment] Changes threshold from \$3,000 to \$2,500.

FISCAL:

REVENUE:

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) collects data from drivers regarding motor vehicle accidents that involve death or injury to one or more individuals, as well as accidents in which property damage exceeds \$1,500. Data so collected is aggregated and used by the Department to inform decisions related to prioritizing engineering safety of highway and road facilities and to help provide focus for traffic enforcement resources.

The \$1,500 threshold does not reflect the significant increase in the cost of motor vehicles and motor vehicle repair. As a result, ODOT has indicated that many reports submitted to fulfill the requirement are very minor, consuming staff time that the Department believes would be better used for focusing on more serious accidents. Senate Bill 35 raises the threshold to \$3,000 for mandatory accident reporting to focus the data received on serious crashes. In addition, the measure clarifies existing language allowing for the adjustment of the threshold to inflation.