

SB 34 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Prozanski

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 02/14/17

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 4-1-0-0

Yeas: 4 - Dembrow, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski

Nays: 1 - Thatcher

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Prepared By: Whitney Perez, Counsel

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:

- "Move over law" requires either moving over a lane or slowing down, if unsafe to change lanes
- Law would include privately owned vehicles stopped and indicating distress or displaying hazard lights
- Discussion of education component of "move over law"

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

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.