

HB 2291 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Monroe

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Action Date: 04/26/17
Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.
Vote: 5-0-0-0
Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen
Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact
Revenue: Revenue impact issued
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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows weighmaster or motor carrier enforcement officers to enforce laws prohibiting illegal alteration or display of registration plates. Modifies weight calculation for buses and bus trailers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Delays caused at weigh stations by obscured license plates
- Measure does not apply to school buses
- No change to authority of State Police to issue citations

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Motor Carrier Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is the regulatory entity responsible for enforcing safety standards, size and weight limits for commercial motor vehicles, as well as for collecting registration and weight-mile taxes. Most applicable safety standards for heavy trucks are established at the federal level and written into state statutes.

House Bill 2291-A authorizes ODOT's motor carrier enforcement officers (MCEOs) at ports of entry and at weigh stations to issue citations in cases where a vehicle has an obscured registration plate. Because MCEOs currently lack this authority, the Department believes that truckers lack incentive to comply with this requirement. The measure also modernizes the weight calculation for commercial buses with regard to vehicle registration fees and weight-mile taxes to make it consistent with the calculation used for all other heavy vehicles. The current method is based on the number of seats on the bus and a base weight for the average passenger, which can result in underpayment relative to other heavy vehicles. House Bill 2291-A replaces that calculation by instead using the vehicle's gross vehicle weight rating.