

HB 3125 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Girod

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

Action Date: 05/22/17
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: Has minimal revenue impact
Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines the term "autocycle." Specifies that a Class C driver license is required for operation of an autocycle. Directs the Department of Transportation to report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2021, regarding changes to federal law relating to autocycles. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Difference between autocycles and three-wheeled motorcycles
- Safety features of autocycles
- Retail price of autocycles

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under Oregon law, any street-legal motor vehicle that has two or three wheels is considered a motorcycle, meaning that operation of a three-wheeled vehicle requires a Class C driver license with a motorcycle endorsement. Some three-wheel vehicles, however, bear little resemblance to a typical motorcycle; one class of vehicle, referred to as an autocycle, more closely resembles a standard automobile, except that it has one wheel in the rear of the vehicle, instead of two. Autocycles also typically allow side-by-side seating in bucket seats, instead of in-line straddle-seating.

House Bill 3125-A defines the term "autocycle" in statute to mean a vehicle designed to travel on three wheels, using a steering wheel for control, featuring non-straddle seating, and being equipped with three-point safety harnesses. The measure specifies that persons operating an autocycle must still have a Class C driver license, but do not need the motorcycle endorsement.