



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office

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DATE: January 29, 2019
TO: House Committee on Health Care
FROM: Amy Joyce, Legislative Liaison
SUBJECT: HB 2622, Monetary Donation at DMV

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Transportation has assisted in signing up Oregonians as anatomical donors for decades, in a successful partnership with Donate Life Northwest. HB 2622 would add a link to the organization on Driver and Motor Vehicle division's (DMV) web site, and an opportunity to donate money through DMV during particular transactions.

DISCUSSION

Since 1975, Oregon's DMV has partnered with Donate Life Northwest in the important work of signing up Oregonians to be anatomical donors. When an Oregon resident age 15 or older applies for a license, permit, or identification (ID) card, DMV asks if the customer would like to be a donor. If the customer agrees, DMV adds a "D" (donor) designation to the license, permit, or ID card, and to their customer record. At regular intervals, DMV electronically transfers the information on anatomical donors to Donate Life Northwest. In this way, the organization receives updates for their registry of potential donors, as provided by law. Some DMV field staff have received brief training from Donate Life Northwest on the importance of organ and tissue donation, and how best to ask customers if they would like to choose to become a donor.

In addition to the active solicitation of customers to become anatomical donors, DMV includes program information in the driver manual, displays information in its field offices, and includes a link to Donate Life Northwest on the website. Over 1.8 million Oregonians have an active donor code on their DMV credential. None of this activity is an allowable use of the Highway Fund. Instead, the department pays for this work from the Transportation Operating Fund (TOF), the small non-highway portion of the ODOT budget.

HB 2622 adds a new duty to the department. The bill would require DMV to accept monetary donations when customers apply for a new or renewed driver license, permit, or ID card. Although not contained in the bill, DMV would also accept donations during replacement transactions, as the same form is used for all of these customer contacts. The bill would require DMV to notify customers renewing their vehicle registration on-line that they can make a monetary donation by clicking through to the Donate Life Northwest website. The bill directs the funds to statewide outreach and public education related to organ donation. The field office component of the bill will require computer system changes, and additional time with customers to explain the option and complete transactions. None of this work is Highway Fund eligible, and the funding source identified in the bill does not cover start-up costs.

SUMMARY

The department contributes substantial time and financial resources aiding the worthy effort of bringing new anatomical donors into the state registry every day. We work well with our partner, Donate Life Northwest, to educate people through the daily one-to-one contact we bring to our customers in the field office, and through the educational materials we have in our offices, our driver manual, and on our website. The department pays for these efforts with TOF money, further helping the cause. The addition of this new duty would require some up front funding to pay for the work.