

**SB 397 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Committee On Transportation**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/6

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Allows the Department of Transportation to establish a lower designated speed on state highways outside of city limits in low-population counties in eastern Oregon without engineering and traffic investigation under certain circumstances.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

ORS 810.180(4) authorizes the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to establish, by rule, designated speeds on specified sections of state highways that lie outside of a city, including the authority to set different speeds for different types of vehicles. This rulemaking process must be preceded by an engineering and traffic investigation to determine that the statutory speed for the highway segment is greater or less than is safe and reasonable for conditions found to exist.

Senate Bill 397 authorizes ODOT to set a speed lower than the statutory speed on state highway segments in counties with a population not exceeding 40,000 that lie outside city limits for a distance of one mile or less without conducting the engineering and traffic investigation if three conditions are met: the county sheriff gives notice to the road authority; the road authority makes a written request to ODOT; and the county pays for at least half the cost of signage giving notice of the designated speed.