

HB 3176 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Alexa Diaz

Meeting Dates: 4/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires vehicle dealer to submit notice of sale or transfer of vehicle to Department of Transportation if sale is to another dealer. Specifies Department of Transportation may make notation on its records indicating that the vehicle title has been transferred only if form includes all required information. Designates that the person who abandons a vehicle is responsible for the cost of towing and disposition of the abandoned vehicle. Requires authority requesting tow of a vehicle must provide tower information on registered owner of vehicle and vehicle insurance information. Modifies notice content to parties interested in abandoned vehicle. Requires that tower notify the owner and others responsible for vehicle of the location of the vehicle, current amount of lien claim, and penalties for failure to claim the vehicle. Requires motor vehicle insurance policy to provide coverage for towing expenses related to motor vehicle accidents.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, vehicles can be towed if on private property without permission of the owner or abandoned on a highway. An owner of a vehicle is responsible for all costs and expenses that incur from towing and storage of the vehicle. An owner is defined as a person who is entitled to possession or any person with an interest on the title of a vehicle. Those requesting a vehicle be removed and the towing company are required to gather information of the vehicle owner from the Department of Transportation and notify the owner of the location of the vehicle. According to the Oregon Department of Justice, owners of vehicles who have had their vehicles towed should locate their vehicle, recover their vehicle from the towing company, and pay the impounding fee. Vehicle owners may also recover urgently needed personal property such as prescription medication, wallet, and eyeglasses from the towing company.

House Bill 3176 modifies title of transfer notification information and requires the Department of Transportation to make notation recording a title transfer. The measure modifies the process for towing vehicles and includes who is responsible for a vehicle once it has been towed.