

SB 56 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Eliminates motor carrier weight receipts. Directs the Department of Transportation to issue electronic weight identifiers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon derives most of its State Highway Fund revenues from three sources: vehicle registration fees, motor vehicle fuel taxes, and motor carrier fees. While most states derive revenue from heavy trucks from a tax on diesel fuel, Oregon instead assesses a tax calculated by the weight of the vehicle, the number of axles on the vehicle, and the number of miles traveled on Oregon highways. The weight-mile tax was first levied in 1948 on all commercial vehicles with a gross weight in excess of 26,000 pounds. Certain classes of commercial trucks can pay an alternative flat fee. The weight-mile tax is set in statute and adjusted periodically in responses to gas tax increases and to calculations of cost responsibility between passenger vehicles and heavy vehicles through the Highway Cost Allocation Study.