

HB 2236 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Johnson

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 03/27/19

Action: Do pass.

Senate Vote

Yeas: 4 - Bentz, Beyer, Boquist, Frederick

Exc: 1 - Gelser

House Vote

Yeas: 6 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, McKeown, McLain, Witt

Exc: 1 - Noble

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/6, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows farm tractors to operate on state highways that have a speed limit or posted speed of more than 35 miles per hour.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Areas where significant numbers of farm vehicles operate on highways
- Clarification of statute to ensure proper enforcement

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

ORS 801.331 defines a "low-speed vehicle" as a "four wheeled motor vehicle with a top speed of more than 20 miles per hour but not more than 25 miles per hour." Oregon adheres to federal standards for low-speed vehicles as outlined in 49 CFR § 571.500, which specifies that low-speed vehicles must be equipped with headlights, front and rear turn signals, tail lamps, stop lamps, reflex reflectors, exterior mirrors on both sides, a parking brake, a windshield, and qualifying seat belt assemblies. ORS 811.512 prohibits operating a low-speed vehicle on a highway with a posted speed of more than 35 miles per hour.

House Bill 2236 provides that farm tractors do not qualify as "low-speed vehicles" for purposes of the offense of unlawful operation of a low-speed vehicle on the highway.