

HB 4065 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Removes authority of courts to impose driving privilege suspensions for failure to pay traffic-related fines or comply with requirements ordered in lieu of fines. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Collateral consequences of driving privilege suspensions
- Racial and ethnic disparities in suspensions
- Impacts on municipal courts

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under ORS 809.210, a court can order the suspension of an individual's driving privileges if that individual fails to pay court fines related to a driving offense or fails to meet a requirement ordered in lieu of a fine. The suspension will stay in place for 20 years unless the individual presents a reinstatement notice from the court to Oregon Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV) showing that the individual: has paid the fine in full; is making payments following a court-approved payment plan; is enrolled in a preapprentice program; or is a registered apprentice. Individuals who have had their driving privileges suspended for failure to pay traffic-related fines are eligible to apply for a hardship permit, along with those who have had their driving privileges suspended for failing to appear at a court proceeding. These permits allow suspended individuals to drive for certain specific purposes, such as for work, medical treatment, or to provide other necessary services to themselves or family members.

HB 4065 removes the authority of courts to impose driving privilege suspensions based on an individual's failure to pay traffic-related court fines or meet requirements ordered in lieu of fines.