HB 2137 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst
Meeting Dates: 2/23, 3/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies, adds, and repeals laws related to transportation *(placeholder - see "effect of amendment" below)*.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of committee amendment
- Backlog at DMV field offices
- Previous legislative action regarding moratorium on issuing certain citations due to pandemic restrictions
- Elimination of redundant test requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Prohibits police officers from issuing citations for certain credentials that have been expired for fewer than six months, including driver licenses, disabled parking placards and permits, and vehicle registration and permits, between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021. Specifies that test of knowledge and understanding and traffic laws as condition for obtaining driver license does not apply to applicants who hold a valid license from another jurisdiction, or to person whose license from another jurisdiction has been expired for less than one year. Eliminates redundant driver knowledge test. Allows individuals to apply for driver license renewal within two years of expiration of a similar license, rather than current restriction of one year from expiration. Specifies operative date of 30 days following effective date and authorizes Department of Transportation to take any action necessary prior to effective date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact for measure with the -1 amendment

REVENUE: Revenue Impact statement issued for measure with the -1 amendment

BACKGROUND:

The Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV) Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is the state entity responsible for licensing people to operate motor vehicles, as well as for titling and registering motor vehicles for lawful operation, on Oregon roads.

During the first special session of 2020, the Legislative Assembly enacted Senate Bill 1601, which placed a temporary moratorium through the end of 2020 on law enforcement issuing citations related to expired credentials issued by ODOT. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, DMV offices had been closed for an extended period of time, and reduced operating capacity had resulted in extended backlogs of appointments. House Bill 2137, as amended by the -1 amendment, provides a similar moratorium on certain offenses related to driver licenses, parking permits, and vehicle registration, for documents that have been expired for less than six months, through a period ending December 31, 2021.

House Bill 2137, as amended by the -1 amendment, also creates exemptions from knowledge tests for applicants for an Oregon driver license who already hold a valid or recently expired license from another jurisdiction, eliminates certain redundant testing requirements, and allows individuals to renew their driver license up to two years from its expiration date.