

SB 166 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/25, 3/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires that motor vehicles must use headlights at all time when the vehicle is being driven on a highway. Designates failure to do so as Class B traffic violation, with a maximum fine of \$1,000.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Visibility limited in certain conditions even during daytime hours
- Many businesses require drivers to use headlights when operating vehicles
- Whether daytime running lights would meet measure's requirements

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Specifies that vehicles equipped with daytime running lights are in compliance with measure's requirements.

FISCAL: *minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued*

REVENUE: *Minimal revenue impact, no statement issued*

BACKGROUND:

Under current law, a motor vehicle driver commits the offense of failure to use headlights if driving any vehicle in a funeral procession without using low-beam headlights. Motorcycles and mopeds are required to operate headlights at all times (ORS 814.320). All states require that vehicles use headlights between sunset and sunrise; some states extend the requirement to one-half hour prior to sunset and one-half hour after sunrise; and some states require operation of headlights during rain, snow, or other inclement weather.