HB 3125 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/22, 5/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Transportation to create an emergency contact information form and make it available for individuals to voluntarily provide emergency contact information for inclusion in the individual's motor vehicle record for police officers to use, during or after emergency situations, to contact those listed. Directs Department to conduct outreach program to educate applicants and the general public about the opportunity to include emergency contract information in the motor vehicle record. Sunsets the outreach program on January 2, 2025.

[NOTE - measure has subsequent referral to Committee on Ways and Means]

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Contacting next of kin following serious traffic crashes
- Voluntary program
- Current process in Oregon for identifying emergency contacts
- Methods of outreach that Department of Transportation could use
- Enrolling during online transactions
- No fee for enrolling in program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Revises requirements for outreach program.

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

REVENUE: Minimal revenue impact on measure with the -1 amendment

BACKGROUND:

The Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is the state entity responsible for licensing persons to legally operate motor vehicles on Oregon roads, as well as for registering motor vehicles to legally operate on public roads in Oregon. DMV maintains driving records for licensed individuals that track accidents, convictions for traffic offenses, diversion agreements, alcohol rehab entries, suspensions, cancellations, and revocations.

House Bill 3125 directs ODOT to create a form by which applicants and licensees could voluntarily provide information on up to two emergency contacts to be included in their motor vehicle record. This information could be used by law enforcement in situations where the individual has been killed, seriously injured, or is otherwise unable to independently communicate with officers. For persons under 18, at least one contact must be their parent or legal guardian.

House Bill 3125 also directs ODOT to conduct a public outreach program to inform individuals about the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the emergency contact program. The outreach program must effectively communicate in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.