



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Transportation

Director's Office

355 Capitol St. NE, MS 11

Salem, OR 97301

**DATE:** February 18, 2021

**TO:** Joint Committee on Housing

**FROM:** Lindsay Baker, Assistant Director

**SUBJECT:** House Bill 2522 – Park Model Recreational Vehicles

## INTRODUCTION

House Bill 2522 with the (-1) amendment, makes changes to House Bill 2333, passed by the Legislature in 2019, which allowed for the optional titling of Park Model Recreational Vehicles (PMRV) by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). House Bill 2522 would expand the definition of PMRVs to include vehicles that no longer meet the definition of a PMRV in ORS 803.036, but were originally manufactured to meet the definition of a PMRV, and were originally used as living quarters on or before January 1, 2021.

## DISCUSSION

A PMRV is currently defined in statute as a recreational vehicle that:

- Is designed for use as temporary living quarters;
- Is built on a single chassis mounted on wheels;
- Has a gross trailer area that does not exceed 400 square feet;
- Is more than eight and one-half feet wide;
- Complies with any manufacturing standards that the Director of Transportation recognizes as being in widespread use and applicable to park model recreational vehicles; and
- Meets any other requirements imposed by the director by rule.

It is ODOT's understanding that PMRVs are often used by Oregonians for a variety of purposes, including mobile RVs, or more permanent living quarters, in which they may be removed from their chassis and connected to utilities and expanded upon. Once a PMRV has undergone any renovation causing the RV to no longer meet the definition described above, the PMRV is no longer eligible for a title from ODOT. Without a title, owners of PMRVs are often unable to sell these units, as potential buyers must obtain an ownership document in order to secure financing from a financial institution.

House Bill 2522 with the (-1) amendment would allow for a limited number of PMRVs, which have been renovated and no longer meet the definition of a PMRV, to be titled by ODOT-DMV. In order to qualify for a title, these units:

- Must have been originally manufactured according the definition of a PMRV; and
- Were originally used as living quarters on or before January 1, 2021.

Additionally, House Bill 2522 would prevent the issuance of vehicle registration for these units, and indemnifies the State against any claims about the suitability, fitness, safety, quality, or lawfulness of these units as living quarters, or for transportation.

The changes proposed in House Bill 2522, with the (-1) amendment, would allow for a limited number of PMRVs, that no longer meet the definition described above, to be titled by ODOT-DMV. These changes will allow for the titling of these units in perpetuity. However, any PMRVs that do not meet the definition described above, and were originally used as living quarters after January 1, 2021, will **not** be eligible for a title. ODOT raises the following points for the Committee's consideration:

- PMRVs which have been modified and no longer meet the definition of a PMRV, may be eligible for property taxation, in which case ODOT-DMV may cancel any titles in place when notified by a county assessor, or the Department of Revenue.
- PMRVs that are first used as living quarters after January 1, 2021, are not eligible for a title, and will face the same circumstances with regard to title documents.

#### **SUMMARY**

House Bill 2522 would allow for the titling of a limited number of PMRV units which no longer meet the definition of a PMRV, and were originally used as living quarters prior to January 1, 2021. Additionally, the measure prevents these units from being issued vehicle registration, and indemnifies the State against any claims about the suitability, fitness, safety, quality, or lawfulness of these units as living quarters, or for transportation.