

**HB 2796 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Committee On Transportation**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/9

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Expands all-terrain vehicle highway access routes to include county roads.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

All-terrain vehicles, or ATVs, come in several classes: Class I ATVs are generally three- or four-wheeled, weigh less than 1,200 lbs., use straddle seats and handlebar steering; Class II ATVs are larger vehicles, and often are off-road capable versions of street-legal vehicles; Class III ATVs are off-road motorcycles; and Class IV ATVs, often called side-by-sides or utility terrain vehicles, are smaller than Class IIs but typically have similar structure, such as non-straddle seating and steering wheels.

All-terrain vehicles are required to be licensed with the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation for operation on public lands, but typically are not authorized for on-road use. Senate Bill 344 (2017) directed the Oregon Transportation Commission to designate specific ATV access routes to allow for the vehicles to travel on state highways in order to move from one off-road area to another. That measure also created the All-Terrain Vehicle Highway Access Routes Advisory Committee, appointed by the Director of the State Parks and Recreation Department to evaluate and decide on proposals for utilizing portions of state highways as ATV access routes.

House Bill 2796 expands the applicability of both ATV access routes, and review by the ATV Highway Access Routes Advisory Committee, to county roads, with final determination to be made by the governing body of the county.