

SB 889 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies the definition of Class IV all-terrain vehicle. Removes requirement that certain off-road vehicles be equipped with windshield wipers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Specifies that when off-road vehicle is operated on a highway and equipped with a windshield that extends more than six inches above the steering wheel, the windshield must be equipped with a wiper. Specifies that when off-road vehicle is operated off the highway and is equipped with a windshield, the windshield must be unobstructed.

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. ATVs are required to be licensed with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) for operation on public lands, but typically are not authorized for on-road use.

The Class IV ATV is growing in popularity, and new variations on the design continue to be developed. The current statutory definition of a Class IV ATV includes reference to wheels with a maximum wheel rim diameter of 14 inches; however, some new models include wheel sizes that exceed the current statutory definition.

Senate Bill 889 modifies the definition of Class IV ATV to remove the wheel size reference and replace it with specification that the vehicle's engine not exceed 1,000 cubic centimeters in piston and rotor displacement. The measure also deletes the requirement that Class IV ATVs with windshields be equipped with a windshield wiper, replacing it with a requirement that the windshield must be unobstructed.