

HB 2951 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 05/18/23

Action: Do pass and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference

House Vote

Yeas: 7 - Boshart Davis, Evans, Helfrich, Mannix, McLain, Nathanson, Pham K

Senate Vote

Yeas: 4 - Boquist, Findley, Frederick, President Wagner

Exc: 1 - Woods

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs Department of Transportation to establish program for awarding grants to providers of traffic safety education courses to fund Spanish language traffic safety education courses. Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Department of Transportation for biennium beginning July 1, 2023, to award grants. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Educated drivers are safe drivers
- Proposed amendment
- Percentage of households where Spanish is primary language
- Current access to Spanish language traffic safety training is limited

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon does not require that prospective drivers participate in traffic safety education courses in order to be licensed to operate motor vehicles; however, it does provide incentives to do so. Prospective drivers who complete an accredited traffic safety education course are allowed to obtain a license with only 50 hours of supervised driving under an instruction permit with a licensed driver over 21 years of age, while persons who have not completed a traffic safety course must log 100 hours of supervised driving. In addition, persons who successfully complete a traffic safety education course have the required drive test waived.

House Bill 2951 directs the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to establish a grant program to fund providers of traffic safety education courses in Spanish. The measure appropriates an unspecified amount from the General Fund to be disbursed as grants.