

HB 2576 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/13, 3/4

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that when an individual's vehicle is totaled or substantially altered, the individual may keep the registration plates with the vehicle if the vehicle is issued a branded title, or the person may transfer plates to another vehicle if the original vehicle's title is cancelled or retired.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Retrieving plates from a wrecked vehicle can be problematic
- Previous legislation related to registration plate transfers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies provisions of measure related to vehicles recovered after theft. Allows application to transfer any type of plate, provided request complies with ORS 803.530. Modifies provisions related to transfer of special interest registration plates.

BACKGROUND:

When a motor vehicle is involved in a collision or other incident that renders it a wreck, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) takes receipt of the certificate of title for the vehicle. If the vehicle in question is considered wrecked, dismantled, or substantially altered, ODOT cancels and retires both the title and registration for the vehicle. No other title may be issued for that vehicle, except for a salvage title, which is used to transfer ownership to a dismantler.

Some states offer the option of issuing a "branded title," which refers to a vehicle that has been restored to operating condition after having suffered damage sufficient to significantly affect its resale value. A vehicle with a branded title may be restored for use by the original owner, or sold to a new owner.

House Bill 2576 authorizes ODOT to issue a branded title to a vehicle that has been totaled or substantially altered as an alternative to issuing a salvage title. With a branded title, the owner may apply to keep the same registration plates, and remaining registration period on those plates, with the vehicle.