

SB 666 -4 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/20, 5/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Increases the fee for the Pacific Wonderland registration plate from \$100 per set to \$125 per set. Directs the additional \$25 fee to the Trust for Cultural Development Board for the purpose of issuing grants to county historical societies.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Need for funding for county historical societies
- Use of current revenues derived from Pacific Wonderland plates

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-4 Changes allotment of revenues from Pacific Wonderland plates to 40 percent to the Oregon State Capitol Foundation and 60 percent to the Oregon Historical Society. Directs the Oregon Historical Society to distribute one quarter of funds received to counties, and directs counties to distribute funds to a county historical society or county historical museum selected by the governing body of each county. Specifies that county distribution shall be in proportion to number of Pacific Wonderland plates issued in each county.

BACKGROUND:

The Driver and Motor Vehicle (DMV) Services Division of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) issues vehicle registration plates required to legally operate a motor vehicle on Oregon roads. Oregon DMV provides several options for vehicle registration plates; the standard “tree plate” is issued to all vehicle owners unless they opt for one of several alternatives, each of which requires payment of an additional fee. Some of the alternatives are printed on the tree plate and feature a sticker for a university, fraternal organization, or nonprofit organization. Other plates include alternate designs, such as the salmon plate, Cultural Trust plate, Crater Lake plate, Share the Road plate, Wine Country plate, Portland Trail Blazers plate or Gray Whale plate.

Prior to passage of House Bill 2730 (2015), each of these plates was created through legislation; following passage of that measure, an administrative process was put in place by which entities wishing to establish a new license plate design can collect pre-orders for the new plate design and, once sufficient pre-orders are collected, can apply to DMV to begin production.

The Pacific Wonderland vehicle registration plate was originally re-released as a limited edition plate celebrating Oregon's sesquicentennial following passage of Senate Bill 961 (2009). The plates, which feature a blue background with yellow lettering, come with a one-time, \$100 surcharge, split between the Oregon Historical Society and the Oregon State Capitol Foundation. Capped originally at 40,000 plate sets, the maximum number allowed was later increased to 80,000, and the cap finally removed with passage of House Bill 4059 (2018).