

SB 1033 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 5/13, 5/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows Department of Transportation to include, upon request of the registered owner, information on registration card that the owner or person operating vehicle may be deaf or hard of hearing. Prohibits Department of Transportation from adding restriction on a driver license or driver permit due to the person being deaf or hard of hearing.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Requirements for drivers who are hearing impaired
- Problems that can arise during interactions between deaf drivers and law enforcement
- Other states with similar laws

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In Oregon, vehicle owners are not required to disclose that they are deaf or hard of hearing. Several states, such as Michigan and Wisconsin, offer visor cards that can be placed on the sun visor to be used to assist with communication with law enforcement officers in the event of a traffic stop. The visor cards include information stating the driver is either deaf or hard of hearing, tips for communicating with the driver, and guidance on what to do if the driver is going to be arrested.

Senate Bill 1033 creates provisions for the Department of Transport to include information that the vehicle owner is deaf or hard of hearing on the vehicle's registration card at the request of the registered owner. The measure prohibits the Department of Transportation from adding restrictions on obtaining a driver license or driver permit based on the applicant being deaf or hard of hearing.