

HB 2576 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Gelser

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 02/13/19

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Senate Vote

Yeas: 5 - Bentz, Beyer, Boquist, Frederick, Gelser

House Vote

Yeas: 4 - Lewis, McLain, Noble, Witt

Exc: 3 - Evans, Findley, McKeown

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 2/13, 3/6

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that when an individual's vehicle is totaled or substantially altered, the individual may keep the registration plates 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:

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

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 4062 (2018) was enacted to address theft of motor vehicle registration plates. Prior to that measure, there was no requirement that an individual seeking to transfer plates prove that they had legally acquired the plates (which was commonly done through private transactions), meaning that a person who had stolen a set of plates from a vehicle could have them legally transferred to a different vehicle.

The 2018 legislation resulted in a significant decrease in complaints about plate theft. However, a consequence of this change was that a vehicle that had been declared totaled was required to have its registration plates retired, preventing the owner of the totaled vehicle from transferring the plates, and the remaining period of registration on those plates, to another vehicle.

House Bill 2576-A 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, which requires surrender of the plates. With a branded title, the owner may apply to keep the same registration plates, and remaining registration period on those plates, with the vehicle.