

HB 2236 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Lewis

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 03/27/19

Action: Do Pass.

House Vote

Yeas: 6 - Evans, Findley, Lewis, McKeown, McLain, Witt

Exc: 1 - Noble

Senate Vote

Yeas: 4 - Bentz, Beyer, Boquist, Frederick

Exc: 1 - Gelser

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/6, 3/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows farm tractors to operate on state highways that have a speed limit or posted speed of more than 35 miles per hour.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Areas where significant numbers of farm vehicles operate on highways
- Clarification of statute to ensure proper enforcement

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon statute defines a "low-speed vehicle" as a four-wheeled vehicle with a top speed of more than 20 miles per hour but not more than 25 miles per hour (ORS 801.331). Oregon adheres to federal standards for low-speed vehicles as outlined in 49 CFR § 571.500, which specifies that low-speed vehicles must be equipped with headlights, front and rear turn signals, tail lamps, stop lamps, reflex reflectors, exterior mirrors on both sides, a parking brake, a windshield, and qualifying seat belt assemblies. ORS 811.512 prohibits operating a low-speed vehicle on highways with a posted speed of 30 miles per hour or higher

House Bill 2236 clarifies that farm tractors do not qualify as "low-speed vehicles" for purposes of the offense of unlawful operation of a low-speed vehicle on the highway.