

HB 2682 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Beyer

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 04/15/19

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Senate Vote

Yeas: 3 - Bentz, Beyer, Frederick

Exc: 2 - Boquist, Gelser

House Vote

Yeas: 4 - Evans, McKeown, McLain, Noble

Nays: 3 - Findley, Lewis, Witt

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Specifies that bicycle lane is considered to exist within an intersection if lane is marked on opposite sides of intersection in same lane of travel.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Incidents of cyclists killed or injured in intersections
- Use of signage and striping to indicate proper pathways for bicycles
- Importance of ensuring safety of cyclists to encourage active transportation
- Need for clarity for both drivers and cyclists
- Whether measure would set legal precedent regarding parties at fault
- Whether measure grants new right of way
- How driver license applicants are currently instructed regarding cyclists in intersections

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Bicycle lanes are parts of the highway designated by official signs or markings for bicyclists (ORS 801.155). In the United States, many urban and suburban areas offer bicycle infrastructure on roadways. The Federal Highway Administration offers guidelines on bicycle lane design including location, width of lane, and signage. According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, approximately 39 percent of urban state highways have bicycle lanes and sidewalks and 2.4 percent of the population commutes by bicycle in the state. The Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan outlines statewide goals to eliminate pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities and injuries, create a connected network, and invest in infrastructure. Examples of bicycle infrastructure are designated bicycle lanes, neighborhood greenways, and bicycle traffic signals. In Portland, there are approximately 350 miles of bikeways, which includes 77 miles of neighborhood greenways and 188 miles of bicycle lanes.

House Bill 2682-A clarifies that a bicycle lane is considered to exist within an intersection if the lane is marked on opposite sides of the intersection in the same lane of travel.