

HB 2019 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Authorizes the City of Unity to operate photo radar. Provided an exception to allow City of Unity to operate photo radar on a portion of U.S. Highway 26 within city limits.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

There are currently ten cities in Oregon (Albany, Beaverton, Bend, Eugene, Fairview, Gladstone, Medford, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Portland, and Tigard) that are statutorily permitted to use photo radar devices to enforce speed limits on segments of public roads. In most cases, the photo radar devices are limited to use in residential areas, school zones, or in other locations if a local governing body has determined that speed has a negative impact on safety. Use of the devices is limited to four hours per day in any given location. Photo radar enforcement is not permitted on limited access highways. Cities operating photo radar must also conduct a biennial process and outcome evaluation of the system's effectiveness, public acceptance, and process of administration of the system, and provide a report to the Legislative Assembly by March 1 of every odd-numbered year.

The City of Portland is also authorized to operate a "fixed-photo radar" on high crash corridors. This system allows for 24-hour photo speed enforcement at a limited number of intersections. These provisions are scheduled to sunset January 1, 2024.

Cities that operate photo radar speed enforcement must comply with signage requirements indicating that traffic laws are photo enforced. Citations may only be issued by uniformed police officers, and the equipment must be operated out of marked police vehicles. Citations are mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle, and recipients have 30 days to respond to the citation, which may include submission of a certificate of innocence or a certificate of nonliability.

House Bill 2019 authorizes the City of Unity to operate photo radar, and provides an exception to allow the city to do so on U.S. Highway 26 within city limits.