

## **HB 2538 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Joint Committee On Transportation**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/30

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Modifies requirements for motor vehicle exhaust systems to prohibit excessive or unusual noise or noise amplification and to prohibit cutout, bypass, or similar devices.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Replaces original measure. Creates separate requirements for motorcycle and moped exhaust systems. Exempts vehicles that are at least 40 years old.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

Oregon statute specifies maximum allowable noise levels from motor vehicle exhaust systems. In addition to requirements that the exhaust system be in constant operation and in good working order, the system must meet noise emission standards as determined by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), based on a test conducted at a distance of 25 feet. There are three categories: heavy trucks, motorcycles and mopeds, and all other motor vehicles, each with their own maximum decibel ratings. The ratings also provide for higher maximum allowed sound levels for vehicles model year 1976 and older. The range for all vehicle types and ages are between 88 and 94 decibels.

House Bill 2538 replaces the existing statutory maximums for vehicle exhaust noise levels with generalized language prohibiting excessive or unusual noise, prohibiting cutout and bypass devices, and prohibiting modification of exhaust systems in any way that increases or amplifies noise emitted by the vehicle.