

HB 3050 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 5/11, 5/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Department of Transportation to study development of uniform standards for speed bump height and markings. Sunsets January 2, 2023.

NOTE - this measure is scheduled solely for consideration of the -1 amendment (see description below)

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Meanings of terms "accident," "collision," and "crash"
- Most accidents are due to human error or intent
- Terminology change consistent with goal of zero traffic deaths

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces original measure. Replaces statutory references to vehicle accidents and vehicle collisions with references to vehicle crashes.

FISCAL:

REVENUE:

BACKGROUND:

The terms "vehicle accident" and "vehicle collision" are used throughout the Oregon Revised Statutes. However, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) discontinued use of these terms some time ago, transitioning to the word "crash" to describe such incidents. Proponents of this change assert that the existing terms, particularly "accident," establish a sense of inevitability to crashes, while most crashes result from human error.

A number of road authorities and local governments, including the City of Portland and Metro, have adopted goals to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries related to vehicle crashes to zero. Efforts to achieve this goal include traffic enforcement, road design, and public outreach and education.