

HB 3050 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Beyer

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 05/20/21

Action: Do pass the A-Eng bill.

Senate Vote

Yeas: 3 - Beyer, Frederick, Gorsek

Nays: 2 - Boquist, Findley

House Vote

Yeas: 6 - Boshart Davis, Evans, Lewis, McLain, Nathanson, Power

Exc: 1 - Noble

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/11, 5/20

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Replaces statutory references to vehicle accidents and vehicle collisions with references to vehicle crashes.

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:

No amendment.

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.

House Bill 3050 A replaces references throughout statute to "vehicle accident" and "vehicle collision" with the term "vehicle crash."