

## HB 3556 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Joint Committee On Transportation

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**Meeting Dates:** 4/25

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Transportation to conduct a study of issues related to abandoned recreational vehicles and to submit findings to legislative interim committees related to transportation by September 15, 2024. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces original measure. Authorizes enforcement agencies to tow abandoned recreational vehicles after providing notice if the interested party fails to move the vehicle to a place where it can be lawfully parked, provide the enforcement agency with evidence of ownership or right to possession, and evidence it is not abandoned. Shields enforcement agency from liability for damaged caused by reasonable efforts at removal. Outlines process for notice of removal of abandoned recreational vehicles no less than 72 hours before or later than 30 days after notice is attached to the vehicle. Provides for hearing process. Outlines circumstances where towing without notice is permitted and for dispensation of vehicle in such circumstances. Outlines post-towing notice requirements. Specifies that interested party is liable for cost of towing and storage of vehicle. Specifies process for storage and reclamation of abandoned recreational vehicles that have been towed. Outlines process for reimbursement of costs related to towing and storage of abandoned recreational vehicles. Establishes the Abandoned Recreational Vehicle Account within the General Fund and continuously appropriates moneys in Account to Department of Transportation for paying expenses of towing and storage of abandoned recreational vehicles. Establishes additional biennial registration fee of \$25 on campers, travel trailers, and motor homes, allows fee to be adjusted for inflation on biennial basis, and specifies revenues are deposited into Abandoned Recreational Vehicle Account. Outlines process for towing abandoned recreational vehicles from private property. Directs Department of Transportation to submit annual report to Joint Committee on Transportation on implementation of provisions of Act; sunsets reporting requirement on January 2, 2034. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

#### BACKGROUND:

Oregon State Police (OSP) has indicated that there has been an increase in the number of abandoned recreational vehicles (RVs) since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. In many cases, these vehicles are found in public areas, including on road shoulders or turnout areas. It can often be difficult to find the owner of abandoned recreational vehicles, as some of them are out-of-state vehicles; in some cases, law enforcement is unable to locate the responsible owner. As a result, the costly removal and disposal of the vehicle must be paid for by the property owner where the vehicle was recovered.