

# HB 2951: Spanish Driver's Education Grant Program

## BACKGROUND

Our Latinx and Spanish-speaking community face barriers when they are trying to obtain their driver's license, including poorly translated driving test questions and inaccessible training opportunities. The opportunity to enroll in linguistically appropriate drivers education courses does not exist for most Oregonians who speak Spanish as their primary language. Yet we know that driver education courses are one of the most effective ways to reduce traffic related accidents and insurance premiums. Teens who take driver's education courses have a 57% lower rate of traffic convictions and can save up to 15% a year on car insurance.<sup>1</sup> The need for Spanish driver's education programs was identified by the Washington County Sheriff and his Latino Advisory Commission.

### **HB 2951 directs ODOT to establish a pilot grant program to funding for traffic safety education courses in Spanish.**

According to the Statistical Analysis Center of the Criminal Justice Commission,<sup>2</sup> several police agencies in Oregon have disproportionate levels of citations, arrests and/or searches of Latino drivers, including:

OR State Police	City of Eugene
Washington County	City of Woodburn
City of Tigard	City of Hermiston
City of Sherwood	City of Hillsboro
City of Forest Grove	

**By investing in equitable access to driver education courses, Oregon will improve safety on our roads and address barriers that lead to disproportionate levels of citations, arrests and/or searches of Latino drivers.**



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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whydrivewithed.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oregon.gov/cjc/SAC/Pages/stop.aspx>