

HB 3155 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows some all-terrain vehicles to use state and local roads if they have the required features and are registered under a new optional registration process.

Detailed Summary

Allows for the operation of Class I, Class III and Class IV all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on highways that are not interstate highways, provided that those vehicles meet specified equipment standards and are registered to operate on public highways. Directs the Department of Transportation to allow for an optional registration process for Class I, Class III and Class IV ATVs if the applicant provides proof that the vehicle meets equipment standards for highway use.

Fiscal impact: (info)

Revenue impact: (info)

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

All-terrain vehicles, or ATVs, come in several classes: Class I ATVs are generally three- or four-wheeled, weigh less than 1,200 pounds, use straddle seats and handlebar steering; Class II ATVs are larger vehicles, and often are off-road capable versions of street-legal vehicles; Class III ATVs are offroad motorcycles; and Class IV ATVs, often called side-by-sides or utility terrain vehicles, are smaller than Class IIs but typically have similar structure, such as steering wheels and non-straddle seating.

All-terrain vehicles are required to be licensed with the Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation for operation on public lands, but typically are not authorized for on-road use. Senate Bill 344 (2017) directed the Oregon Transportation Commission to designate specific ATV access routes to allow for the vehicles to travel on state highways in order to move from one off-road area to another. That measure also created the All-Terrain Vehicle Highway Access Routes Advisory Committee, appointed by the Director of the State Parks and Recreation Department, to evaluate and decide on proposals for utilizing portions of state highways as access routes.

House Bill 3155 allows Class I, Class III, and Class IV ATVs that meet equipment specifications satisfactory to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to be registered to operate on Oregon roads, except for interstate highways. The measure also directs ODOT to adopt rules to determine satisfactory equipment requirements and fees for registration.