

## HB 2642 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Joint Committee On Transportation

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 2/18

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#### WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Department of Environmental Quality to contract out for the emissions testing of automobiles in the Portland metro region and Medford region. Prohibits the Department from owning or operating pollution control testing stations or from issuing a license to an employee of a fleet owner to inspect pollution control systems of fleet vehicles.

Fiscal impact: (info)

Revenue impact: (info)

#### ISSUES DISCUSSED:

#### EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

#### BACKGROUND:

Oregon requires most motor vehicles that are registered in the Portland metropolitan area, as well as the Medford-Ashland metropolitan area, to undergo vehicle emissions testing every two years in order to be lawfully operated on Oregon roads. The combination of population density and geographic features that allow air to collect within a certain region have for decades led to an increased likelihood of low air quality due to vehicle emissions and other causes. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), through its Driver and Motor Vehicle Division (DMV), and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), manage the program. When a vehicle's registration comes due every two years, if the vehicle is registered within either testing area, the owner must take the vehicle to a testing station to determine whether the vehicle's emissions exceed state standards; vehicles that do not meet those standards must be repaired to be brought up to standard and may receive temporary trip permits until compliance is reached.

There are slight differences in the requirements for the two metro areas. For the Portland region, all gas powered, alternative fuel, and hybrid vehicles of model year 1975 and newer, as well as all diesel powered vehicles model year 1975 or newer weighing up to 8,500 pounds are required to undergo testing. For the Medford region, every gas powered, alternative fuel, and hybrid vehicle 20 years old or newer, as well as every diesel vehicle 20 years or newer and weighing up to 8,500 pounds, is required to be tested. Many smaller vehicles, such as mopeds, all-terrain vehicles, golf carts, and tractors. Vehicles older than 20 years old in Medford, or older than model year 1975 in Portland, are grandfathered and do not require testing.

In addition to DMV-operated testing centers, the program has expanded to allow a number of private garages and other automobile-related businesses to conduct emissions testing through the "DEQ Too" program. These locations use similar emissions detection equipment and facilitate transmission of test data to DEQ to allow the vehicle registration to be renewed. House Bill 2642 requires that DEQ eliminate all of its emissions testing centers and to contract with private businesses to conduct all inspections of motor vehicles and motor vehicle pollution control systems.