

SB 94 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure establishes a maximum allowable weight limit of 129,000 pounds for vehicles carrying liquid milk products.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces original measure. Clarifies that the new weight limit applies if all the following criteria are met:

- Transferring fluid milk products to or from a farm, milk plant, receiving station or transfer station.
- Vehicle equipped with a double trailer length of 85 feet or less.
- Vehicle does not exceed limits on maximum allowable weight per axle as outlined in ORS 818.010.
- Vehicle is traveling on one of several specified routes

Directs the Department to submit a report to the Joint Committee on Transportation by September 15 of each even-numbered year; sunsets reporting requirement on January 2, 2031.

-2 Replaces original measure. Clarifies that the new weight limit applies if all the following criteria are met:

- Transferring fluid milk products to or from a farm, milk plant, receiving station or transfer station.
- Vehicle equipped with a double trailer length of 85 feet or less.
- Vehicle does not exceed limits on maximum allowable weight per axle as outlined in ORS 818.010.
- Vehicle is traveling on pilot route proscribed by rule under section 5 of this Act.

Sunsets provisions related to milk truck weight limits on January 2, 2031. Directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to establish a five-year pilot program to test the allowance of vehicles weighing up to 129,000 pounds that are transporting fluid milk products on a limited number of highways in Oregon. Authorizes the Department to issue permits to such vehicles. Directs the Department to prioritize routes that connect to bordering states and to farms, milk plants, receiving stations, or transfer stations for fluid milk products. Directs the Department to study the impacts of such vehicles on highways, bridges, and pavement conditions on the routes included in the pilot program. Specifies that findings are to be reported, including potential expansion onto additional routes and for additional commodities. Directs the Department to submit a report to the Joint Committee on Transportation by September 15 of each even-numbered year; sunsets reporting requirement on January 2, 2031.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon Revised Statutes chapter 818 outlines the maximum allowable size of all types of vehicles that travel on public roads in the state. These limits are generally calculated by the number of axles of the transport vehicle, as well as the distance between the first and last axle on the vehicle. Violation of these statutory maximums is punishable as a Class A traffic violation, with fines determined by the amount of excess weight. Certain vehicles are exempted from these weight limits or are subject to a separate weight schedule that most vehicles; in addition, a vehicle operator may obtain a variance permit from the Oregon Department of Transportation that allows operation of vehicles that exceed weight, size or other related requirements.