

HB 3209 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 3/31

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

House Bill 3209 imposes a surcharge on recreational vehicle registration fees of \$25 per year, as well as a vehicle disposal fee surcharge of \$40 on recreational vehicle trip permits. It transfers revenues from these fees to an Abandoned Recreational Vehicle Account, and authorizes the Department of Transportation to provide reimbursement for the cost of towing and/or disposing of abandoned recreational vehicles. The measure directs the Department to adjust the fees biennially for inflation, and sunsets the program on January 2, 2036.

Fiscal impact: (info)

Revenue impact: (info)

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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

House Bill 3209 establishes a supplemental "vehicle disposal fee" of 25 dollars per year, as well as an abandoned recreational vehicle disposal fee of \$40 (charged when the vehicle owner applies for a vehicle trip permit). Revenues from these fees is to be deposited into the Abandoned Recreational Vehicle Account, also created by the measure, and appropriated to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to reimburse public bodies, towers, dismantlers, and vehicle storage companies for costs associated with abandoned recreational vehicles. The measure also stipulates that ODOT will adjust the fees to account for inflation every biennium, beginning July 1, 2027.