

## **SB 1022 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Joint Committee On Transportation**

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

**Meeting Dates:** 4/21

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

The measure modifies the special vehicle registration plate program by lowering the threshold amount to begin manufacturing and to continue issuing special registration plates for the Oregon Institute of Technology, Western Oregon University, Southern Oregon University, and Eastern Oregon University. It takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

Fiscal impact: (info)

Revenue impact: (info)

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is the state agency that regulates motor vehicles and drivers in Oregon. Every vehicle that operates on Oregon roads is required to have a valid vehicle registration, which is typically designated by a license plate issued by the state where the vehicle owner resides. The State of Oregon's primary license plate is commonly known as the "tree plate;" however, DMV offers a number of other plates through its "specialty plate program" that feature different designs, including plates for the University of Oregon (which debuted in 2017) and Oregon State University (which debuted in April 2025). Prior to these specialty plates, Oregon universities could be represented by a "group plate" which used a variation of the tree plate that features an organizational logo and four digit alphanumeric combination.

Prior to 2015, the only way for a new specialty plate to be introduced was through legislation, as the list of possible plates were contained in statute. However, that session the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2730, which created specialty plates for the Portland Trail Blazers and for Breast Cancer Awareness. It also changed the method for future introduction of specialty plates by creating an administrative process, whereby persons or groups interested in a new specialty plate could collect 3,000 vouchers from potential customers; once that number is reached, DMV puts the plate into production and offers it to vehicle owners. The plate is to be offered until the number of sets offered drops below 2,000, at which time the design in question is discontinued.

Senate Bill 1022 provides a lower threshold for Oregon's four smaller state universities to qualify for a specialty registration plate design, reducing the threshold for such plates from 3,000 to 500. It also drops the threshold for elimination of specialty plates for the four state universities from 2,000 to 500 plates.