



Legislative Fiscal Office
83rd Oregon Legislative Assembly
2025 Regular Session

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Bill Title: Relating to transportation; prescribing an effective date.

Government Unit(s) Affected: Department of Transportation

Summary of Fiscal Impact

2025-27 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Transportation	\$ 502,116	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 502,116	1	0.88
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 502,116	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 502,116	1	0.88
2027-29 Biennium	General Fund	Lottery Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	Positions	FTE
Department of Transportation	\$ 331,878	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 331,878	1	1.00
Total Fiscal Impact	\$ 331,878	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 331,878	1	1.00

- The table does not reflect an unspecified one-time General Fund appropriation to the Oregon Department of Transportation for the 2025-27 biennium to award grants.

Measure Description

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to expand access to driver services for customers with limited English proficiency. The measure requires ODOT to enter contracts for services to translate written materials for the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in the five most commonly spoken languages in Oregon, beginning January 1, 2026. Materials include but are not limited to information provided to the public for vehicle registration, identification cards and licensure, the driver knowledge test, and education manuals. ODOT is to partner with community-based organizations and experts in language translation as needed. The measure provides an unspecified General Fund appropriation to ODOT for the purposes of awarding grants to providers of driver education courses to fund courses in languages other than English. ODOT is directed to establish rules for the grant program, including the application process, eligibility criteria, and the process of awarding grants. No later than December 15, 2027, ODOT is required to submit a report to the interim Joint Committee on Transportation that describes the progress of establishing the grant program, efforts made to engage with community-based organizations, data describing the percent of individuals who passed the Class C written driver test by language from January 1, 2022 to November 1, 2027, and the number of grants awarded.

Fiscal Analysis

The total estimated fiscal impact to ODOT is \$502,116 General Fund and one permanent, full-time position (0.88 FTE) in the 2025-27 biennium, and \$331,878 General Fund and one position (1.00 FTE) in the 2027-29 biennium.

The DMV is responsible for administering driver licensure, vehicle titling and registration programs within Oregon. Currently, the DMV provides driver knowledge test manuals in English and Spanish, and offers the Class C non-commercial test in English, Spanish, and six other languages. To support the initial and ongoing work required to manage translated materials and exams, ODOT anticipates hiring one permanent, full-time Operations and Policy Analyst 2 position (1.00 FTE) by the effective date of the measure, October 1, 2025. Initially the position would conduct research and community engagement to identify and prioritize which DMV written materials are most utilized and need to be made available in the five languages, coordinate translation contracts with vendors, and partner with community organizations to review translated materials and provide input. The position is expected to continuously monitor language use in Oregon for demographic shifts and changes in translation needs. The estimated cost for the position is \$207,920 for the 2025-27 biennium.

The measure requires ODOT to contract for language translation services for tests and written materials for the general public. This analysis assumes all translations would be completed during the 2025-27 biennium, and the use of a single language translation vendor to avoid inconsistencies in translations. Based on costs to translate prior written materials, ODOT anticipates a total translation expense of \$294,196 for the 2025-27 biennium, which includes the knowledge test, desktop publishing, printing, and web page translation. Costs to maintain DMV materials, as forms and manuals are re-printed annually, and minimal additional costs for translating revisions on web pages are estimated to total \$84,976 for the 2027-29 biennium.

The measure has a fiscal impact related to the unspecified General Fund appropriation and disbursement of grants, however, the impact is indeterminate at this time due to the uncertainty of the grant size and demand, and subsequently the staffing level required for administration. Driver education programs in Oregon vary by size, non-English languages offered (if any), registration costs, qualifications, etc. Currently, there are approximately 40 ODOT-approved driver education programs for adults 18 and older, and approximately 50 ODOT-approved courses for teens ages 15-17. It is unknown how many programs provide instruction in non-English languages and would qualify for the grant. The work associated with administering grants would be handled by the Transportation Safety Office, which oversees ODOT-approved driver education courses and grant programs.

ODOT is projecting a shortfall of State Highway Fund revenue necessary to support current service level expenditures in the 2025-27 biennium. As a result, the Department cannot absorb additional costs that rely on existing Highway Fund resources. Therefore, this fiscal impact assumes that General Fund would be required to fund this measure.

Relevant Dates

The measure takes effect on the 91st day after sine die, and becomes operative January 1, 2026.

ODOT is to report to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to Transportation by December 15, 2027, and this requirement sunsets on January 1, 2028.