

HB 2990 -3 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/14, 5/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide a report on its progress in revising the written test for Class C driver licenses and to submit the report to the Joint Committee on Transportation no later than September 15, 2026. Sunsets January 1, 2027. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lower success rate on written tests for persons whose first language is other than English
- Most common second languages in Oregon: Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese
- Current accommodation efforts

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-3 The amendment replaces the original measure and directs the Oregon Department of Transportation to contract with a translation service to translate written materials provided to the public in the five most commonly spoken languages other than English in the State. It also directs the Department to establish a program for awarding grants to providers of driver education courses in languages other than English. The amendment appropriates an unspecified amount from the General Fund for the grant program. It requires reports on progress be submitted to the Joint Committee on Transportation and is repealed on January 1, 2026. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment.

FISCAL: Indeterminate fiscal issued on measure w/the -3 amendment

REVENUE: No revenue impact on measure w/the -3 amendment

BACKGROUND:

The Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division (DMV) of the Oregon Department of transportation (ODOT) is the state entity responsible for regulation and oversight of motor vehicles and drivers in the state of Oregon. It offers a number of services, credentials, and documents at nearly 60 field offices statewide, as well as a growing number online. Most of the documents and tests used by DMV are available exclusively in English; there are field offices that retain staff who are fluent in multiple languages who can assist in certain circumstances, but for issues such as written driver knowledge tests, the primary language for such tests is English.