

SB 159 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Meek

**Senate Committee On Veterans, Emergency Management, Federal
and World Affairs**

Action Date: 04/01/25

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 3-0-2-0

Yeas: 3 - Manning Jr, Meek, Smith DB

Exc: 2 - Thatcher, Woods

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

Prepared By: Kevin Rancik, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/11, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure allows veterans' recognition registration plates to be used on mopeds and motorcycles.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Provisions of measure
- Enjoyment of motorcycle riding
- Design and manufacture of plates
- Funding for plate programs
- Specialty plate program versus veteran plate program

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The current iteration of the veterans' recognition registration plate program began in 2008 as a joint effort between the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs. Veteran plates had previously been issued as part of the Group Plate Program. Most veteran plates require proof of eligibility, such as proof of honorable discharge. Permanent plates are available for disabled veterans and ex-prisoners-of-war (POW), with proof of having a service-connected disability or of qualifying POW status. Current statute allows veteran plates to be used on passenger vehicles, but not on mopeds and motorcycles.

Senate Bill 159 allows veterans' recognition registration plates to be used on mopeds and motorcycles.