

SB 1161 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Patterson

Senate Committee On Health Care

Action Date: 04/08/25

Action: Do pass with amendments and requesting subsequent referral to Ways and Means be rescinded. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 5-0-0-0

Yeas: 5 - Campos, Hayden, Linthicum, Patterson, Reynolds

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Daniel Dietz, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to regulate and issue licenses for the operation of organ transport vehicles. It sets licensing criteria for drivers and organ procurement organizations, mandates insurance requirements, and grants privileges such as the use of lights and sirens for organ transport vehicles.

Detailed Summary:

- Directs the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to issue licenses for individuals to drive organ transport vehicles.
 - Permits the Oregon Health Authority to establish rules for license and renewal fees and renewal requirements.
 - Requires vehicles to be clearly and identifiably marked on all sides and provide proof of specified insurance coverage.
- Establishes requirements for drivers, including:
 - Must be at least 25 years old;
 - Must be a current or former police officer, firefighter, or emergency medical services provider;
 - Must have at least five years of experience operating emergency vehicles;
 - Must hold a valid driver's license and pass a criminal background check;
 - Have one or fewer traffic offenses in any three-year period;
 - Must complete emergency vehicle operator and defensive driving courses; and
 - Must be employed or contracted by a licensed organ procurement organization to drive an organ transport vehicle.
- Requires organ procurement organizations to obtain a license for each organ transport vehicle they operate.
- Grants exceptions allowing organ transport vehicles to use lights and sirens while responding to emergencies.
- Amends Oregon traffic laws to:
 - Require other drivers and pedestrians to yield to organ transport vehicles.
 - Allow organ transport vehicles to exceed speed limits and disregard certain traffic controls when responding to emergencies.
 - Require compliance with vehicle lighting and siren regulations.
- Becomes operative on January 1, 2027.

Takes effect on the 91st day following adjournment sine die.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Impacts of the measure.

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

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Organ transport is managed by a federally designated Organ Procurement Organization (OPO). In Oregon, this role is carried out by [Cascade Life Alliance](#). The OPO connects organ donors with patients awaiting transplants and coordinates transportation through various agencies ([U.S. Organ Procurement Org Oversight](#)). Depending on the distance and type of organ, transportation may be by air or ground.

Each organ is carefully preserved using special solutions, packed on ice, and for certain organs, such as lungs and kidneys, placed on machines for transport. There is also a specific process to ensure that each organ is labeled properly. Before leaving the hospital, all organs and related documentation are scanned, and the same process is repeated once the organ reaches its destination. The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network establishes regulations for the preservation, packaging, and labeling of organs during transport.

Senate Bill 1161 A directs the Oregon Health Authority to issue licenses for drivers of organ transport vehicles, allowing them to use sirens and requiring other drivers to yield.

Analysis prepared by Aleysa García Rivas, LPRO Graduate Intern