

SB 417 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Action Date: 04/24/25

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Transportation.

Vote: 5-0-2-0

Yeas: 5 - Boice, Grayber, Lewis, Skarlatos, Tran

Exc: 2 - Evans, Watanabe

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/24

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies provisions regarding relocation of outdoor advertising signs and digital billboards. It specifies acceptable documentation to prove landowner consent when applying for a permit for an outdoor advertising sign.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Housekeeping measure
- Transferring outdoor advertising signs
- Clarity for property owners and sign owners

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Oregon's Outdoor Advertising Sign Program regulates billboards and other signage that is situated along and visible from state highways. The purpose of the program, which traces its origins back to the federal Highway Beautification Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-285), is to regulate highway signage in such manner as to preserve the recreational value of travel on state highways, preserve the natural beauty along the highways and in adjacent areas, promote public safety, and prohibit the indiscriminate use of outdoor advertising. The program is administered in Oregon by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Static billboards (those displaying a single, unchanging image) remain the most common type of advertising sign in Oregon; however, digital billboards (which can change messages by remote control or electronic process) may change the message and graphics on a sign as often as every eight seconds (the time limit for the change process is no more than two seconds). Oregon has limited the total number of advertising billboards allowed, meaning that persons wishing to erect one at a new location must either take an existing one out of service, or purchase a credit for a sign previously removed. Such credits can also be used to convert static billboards to the more valuable digital advertising signs.

Senate Bill 417 modifies provisions regarding relocation of outdoor advertising signs and digital billboards, and it specifies acceptable documentation to prove landowner consent when applying for a permit for an outdoor advertising sign.