SB 94-4 (LC 1217) 5/1/25 (HE/ps)

Requested by JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (at the request of Department of Transportation)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 94

- On page 1 of the printed bill, line 2, delete "amending ORS 818.030" and insert "and prescribing an effective date".
- Delete lines 4 through 30 and delete page 2 and insert:
- "SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Transportation shall conduct a study and prepare a report on increasing the vehicle weight limits for commercial motor vehicles transporting fluid milk products.
- 7 "(2) The report must include:
- 8 "(a) A comprehensive assessment on increasing maximum weight 9 limitations under the Oregon Vehicle Code;
- "(b) An infrastructure impact assessment detailing the effects of heavier vehicle weight loads on bridges, pavements and highway safety, with a focus on high-frequency freight routes in Oregon;
- "(c) An economic impact assessment quantifying the contributions
 of oversized freight to Oregon's economy, balancing potential economic gains from increased freight capacity with the costs of
 infrastructure maintenance and safety considerations;
- "(d) An assessment of length as a factor for legal axle weights and alignment with lengths allowed by the long combination vehicle freeze in federal law;
- 20 "(e) An assessment of parking and staging infrastructure in Oregon 21 for oversized loads;

- "(f) A strategic implementation plan outlining a phased approach to applying the report's findings through a possible pilot program the department may elect to establish under section 3 of this 2025 Act; and
- "(g) Recommendations supporting informed evaluation of increasing maximum vehicle weight limits for divisible and nondivisible loads.
 - "(3) The report may include recommendations for:

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- 7 "(a) Adjusting permit fees to account for highway maintenance 8 needs;
- 9 "(b) Identifying designated heavy-load corridors to minimize 10 infrastructure impacts and improve highway safety;
 - "(c) Designating corridor connections to neighboring states that currently allow increased vehicle weight limits for commercial motor vehicles as authorized under federal law;
 - "(d) Updating the state transportation asset management plan;
- 15 "(e) Changing weigh stations and weigh-in-motion systems;
- 16 "(f) Adjusting bridge inspection plans and load-rating processes;
 - "(g) Updating weight-mile tax rates and tables; and
- 18 "(h) Collaborating with local road authorities.
- "(4) No later than September 15, 2028, the department shall submit the report required under this section to the Oregon Transportation Commission.
- "SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2029.
 - "SECTION 3. (1) After the Oregon Transportation Commission receives the report required under section 1 of this 2025 Act, the Department of Transportation may establish a heavy vehicle pilot program that is informed by the strategic implementation plan created as part of the report completed under section 1 of this 2025 Act.
- 29 "(2) Notwithstanding ORS 818.010 and 818.020 and in addition to the exemptions allowed under ORS 801.026 and 818.030, under the pilot

- program the department shall issue permits that allow commercial vehicles hauling fluid milk products with a loaded weight of not more than 129,000 pounds to operate on routes approved by the department.
- "(3) The department shall specify the conditions and terms of a permit issued under this section.
 - "(4) Applications for a permit under this section shall be made in a form and manner prescribed by the department.
 - "(5) The department, upon receiving satisfactory evidence of any violation of the limitations of a permit issued under this section, may suspend or revoke the permit.
 - "(6) If the department establishes a pilot program under this section, the department shall submit a report to the Joint Committee on Transportation within two years of the date the pilot program is implemented. The report must include an evaluation of the pilot program, including but not limited to impacts to safety, bridges and pavement on all the designated routes within the pilot program.
 - "(7) No later than September 15, 2030, in addition to the report required under subsection (6) of this section, the department shall prepare and submit a report to the Joint Committee on Transportation on its findings and recommendations from the pilot program and may include any recommendations for legislation.
 - "(8) The department may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section.
 - "SECTION 4. Section 3 of this 2025 Act is repealed on January 2, 2032.
 - "SECTION 5. This 2025 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date on which the 2025 regular session of the Eighty-third Legislative Assembly adjourns sine die.".