



DATE: March 31, 2025

TO: Joint Committee on Transportation

FROM: Amy Ramsdell, Delivery & Operations Division Administrator

SUBJECT: HB 3209 – RV Fees for Abandoned RV Disposal

INTRODUCTION

There are an increasing number of derelict RVs being abandoned on Oregon roads. When a recreational vehicle has value, ODOT has authority to remove abandoned vehicles by utilizing the Oregon State Police's rotational towing list. However, when a vehicle has no salvage value, the tow company is unable to recover their costs of towing, storing, and dismantling the vehicle. ODOT must then pay for the costs of removing the abandoned RVs which often represent a hazard to the traveling public.

HB 3209 would attempt to address this issue by increasing various fees to fund a new account to reimburse individuals for the costs of disposing of abandoned RVs.

DISCUSSION

The department has no position on this measure but does appreciate the legislature's attention to the issue of abandoned RV removal, which is a growing cost for ODOT.

Due to the growing number of abandoned RVs on Oregon roads and the industry's inability to shoulder the costs of disposing of these vehicles, ODOT must pay to remove these roadside hazards. Payments to cover these costs are increasingly competing with funding for other ODOT maintenance activities, which are already underfunded due to the agency's structural revenue challenges.

Please see the table below for a summary of ODOT's costs for abandoned RV removal over the last three biennia.

ODOT RV Removal Costs

Biennium	2019-21	2021-23	2023-2025
Abandoned RV Cost	\$47,439	\$314,740	\$278,160*

* partially complete biennium

House Bill 3209 would attempt to address this growing challenge by establishing an Abandoned Recreational Vehicle Account. The account would be funded by a fee added to RV registration and trip permits. The measure would allow an individual to be reimbursed by ODOT from funds in the new account for up to 100 percent of the reasonable costs of disposing of an abandoned RV. These changes would be repealed in January 2036 with any remaining funds in the account being transferred to the State Highway Fund.

ODOT will incur administrative costs to administer the program envisioned in this bill. This includes the cost of consulting with cities and counties to establish a process for requesting reimbursement, setting maximum reimbursement rates, ensuring distribution of reimbursement assistance across the state, and processing the reimbursement requests as they occur.

SUMMARY

There are growing number of derelict RVs being abandoned on Oregon's roads. Removing these roadside hazards comes at an increasing cost for ODOT that detracts from other maintenance activities.

House Bill 3209 establishes the Abandoned Recreational Vehicle Account in the general fund through increases in RV registration fees and RV trip permit fees. The measure requires ODOT to administer these funds and authorizes the agency to reimburse individuals for the costs of disposing of abandoned RVs. The fund sunsets on January 2, 2036, with any funds remaining in the account being deposited into the state highway fund.

ODOT would incur administrative costs to implement this measure.