

HB 4137 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Cate

House Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 02/16/26

Action: Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 8-0-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Andersen, Chaichi, Chotzen, Kropf, Lewis, Mannix, Tran, Wallan

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: Has minimal revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 2/11, 2/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure modifies rules regarding the appearance in court of a defendant who has been issued a traffic ticket. If a defendant has transferred their interest in the vehicle that was cited, the measure allows the defendant, in lieu of a first appearance, to notify the court (within 30 days of the citation) of the transfer by presenting a certificate of innocence or in the manner the court provides. It directs the defendant to include a statement affirming specific relevant facts. Once the court determines that the person is exempt from liability, it requires the court to dismiss the citation.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Differences across statutes governing traffic violations
- Jurisdictions' differing processes for addressing vehicle transfers
- Concern that a seller will maintain use of the vehicle

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

The amendment modifies rules regarding the appearance in court of a defendant who has been issued a traffic violation citation. It requires, within 30 days of a citation, that the defendant notify the court of the transfer of interest in the motor vehicle by presenting a certificate of innocence or in the manner the court provides. It directs the defendant to include a statement affirming specific relevant facts. Once the court determines that the person is exempt from liability, it requires the court to dismiss the citation.

BACKGROUND:

Traffic violations (also known as traffic tickets) are offenses punishable by a fine, not by a term of imprisonment. Appearances for violations are governed by Oregon Revised Statutes 153.061; however, jurisdictions handle the process differently. House Bill 4137 A would codify a process for a person who receives a traffic violation citation and no longer owns the vehicle.