HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

February 19, 2001 9:00 AM Hearing Room D Tapes 37, 38

MEMBERS PRESENT:Rep. Bruce Starr, Chair
Rep. Alan Brown, Vice-Chair
Richard Devlin
Jeff Kropf
Donna Nelson
Diane Rosenbaum
Joanne Verger
Cliff ZaunerSTAFF PRESENT:John Leon, Committee Administrator

TAFF PRESENT: John Leon, Committee Administrator Kate Campeau, Committee Assistant

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:	HB 2411 Public Hearing		
	HB	2681	Public
Hooring			

Hearing

These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. <u>Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words.</u> For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 37,A		
004	Chair Starr	Calls the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and opens a public
		hearing on HB 2411.
<u>HB 2411 PU</u>	BLIC HEARING	
013	John Leon	Committee Administrator. Explains the provisions of HB 2411.
022	Rep. Lane Shetterly	House District 34. Explains that this bill is offered as a
		clarification of the existing statute and includes the open bed of
		pick up as an external part of the vehicle.
042	Rep. Shetterly	Discusses the importance of passenger safety especially children
		and relates personal anecdote.
068	Rep. Shetterly	Expresses that children are at more risk riding in the bed of a
		vehicle than in the cab, yet there are no laws to protect them.
		This bill will address an omission from current statutes to protect
		and maintain passenger safety.
085	Rep. Verger	Asks if this bill would exempt families who transport their own
		children when no provisions for safety belts are observed in the
		bed of the vehicle.
093	Rep. Shetterly	Explains that some vehicles have open backs but do
		accommodate with seat belts and these would be exempt.
		Comments that he is not aware of any open bed vehicles at this
		time that have seat belts available.
104	Rep. Merkley	Asks if a vehicle with cap or canopy can have unsecured
		passengers.
110	Rep. Shetterly	Comments this bill refers to an open bed and not sure if other
		laws apply once it becomes an enclosed compartment.
113	Rep. Brown	Asks if the bill applies only to public highway.
116	Rep. Shetterly	States that the motor vehicle laws apply to vehicles on premises

131 182 234	Troy Buzalsky Buzalsky Buzalsky	open to the public not private roads or private property. Clackamas County Fire District 1. Presents a video presentation. Presents written testimony in favor of HB 2411 (EXHIBIT A). Comments that HB 2411 should be used to educate the body of
245	Patrick Wills	Oregon and help make Oregon a little bit safer for the children whom sometimes don't have that choice. Firefighter, and Member, Philomath Fire Board. Details the tragedy of an accident involving teens and an open bed vehicle.
271	Dale Stiab	Fire Chief, Philomath Rural Fire District. Discusses the anguish
301	Stiab	of loss not only for the people directly involved in the accidents but of those of his crew who have to deal with the emotional conflict and emotional trauma of this type of incident. Sites some decreases in fatalities due to safety standards but not in the deaths of passengers riding in the cargo areas of pick up trucks. States that some actions have been undertaken through the National Highway Transportation to enact a regulation requiring that warnings be placed on the cargo bed pick ups to
311	Stiab	eliminate passengers from riding in them. Comments some major auto manufacturers are willing to put notification in their owner manuals that it was hazardous to have
339	Rep. Jeff Kropf	passengers ride in open bed pick up trucks. House District 37. Testifies in favor of HB 2411. Details a personal tragedy from someone riding in an open bed pick-up.
354	Rep. Kropf	Relates to personal observations of passengers in open bed pick- ups. References legislation changing teen driving rules and how much improved that situation has become through the reduction in fatalities.
385	Chair Starr	Ask if seatbelt laws protect everyone, not just minors.
<u>TAPE 38, A</u> 004	Kelly Taylor	Legislative Liaison, Oregon Department of Transportation. Presents written testimony on HB 2411(EXHIBIT B). Comments that there is conflicting interpretations as to whether a pickup bed is external or internal to the vehicle, and that the uncertainty confuses the public and deters enforcement of the law.
016	Taylor	Continues that during the past six years, 29 people were killed or injured while riding in the bed of pickup trucks in Oregon. Sixteen of those injured were 19 years of age or younger, and the three became fatalities.
022	Chair Starr	Closes the public hearing on HB 2411 and opens a public hearing on HB 2681.
HB 2681 PUBL	IC HEARING	
028	Leon	Explains the provisions of HB 2681.
037	Rep. Bill Witt	House District 7. Testifies in support of HB 2681. Believes HB 2681 promotes safety for the public. States the reality of dogs or other animals falling out of the back of pickups particularly on busy highways at high rates of speed poses a very serious risk to motorist as well as the animals.
048	Rep. Witt	Comments this bill protects animals in a responsible way, yet still addresses the exemption for agricultural purposes.
064	Chair Starr	Closes the public hearing on HB 2681 and reopens the public hearing on HB 2411.
HB 2411 PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED)		
066	Taylor	Continues testimony. Sites a study done at the University of

089	Taylor	 California in 1993 looking at children involved in accidents while riding in pickup beds accounted for 43% of the total of pickup related deaths nationwide. States as of January 1, 2001 there are 30 states that have this type of law on the books prohibiting passengers from riding on any part of a pickup that is not designed to carry passengers including the bed of a pickup. Adds that with this law Oregon could undoubted save lives, reduce injuries and protect Oregonians from hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical
103	Rep. Devlin	expenses in relation to these types of accidents. Asks at what age can a child be in the bed of a pickup without any sort of protection.
112	Taylor	Answers at the age of 4.
112	Rep. Rosenbaum	Asks how many pickups in Oregon per capita compared to other
117	Rep. Rosenbaum	vehicles.
122	Taylor	States she will locate that information and forward it onto the committee.
125	Rep. Rosenbaum	Comments that if there are more pickups in Oregon that it is a much bigger problem here than other states.
131	Rep. Merkley	Asks does it reduce the risk to have a canopy over the pickup.
133	Taylor	Comments that she doesn't have that information but you can still receive substantial injury from being unrestrained in the back of a pickup with or without a canopy.
142	Rep. Merkley	States that the written information says that the cargo area of a
112	Rep. Weikley	pickup truck with or without a canopy has proven to be a source
		of injuries and death to children and adults. Notes in addition to
		the possibility to being ejected from the beds that covered beds
		also expose passengers to carbon monoxide from exhaust fumes possibly increasing that number of fatalities.
147	Taylor	Responds that she will look into this issue further and get back to
1.17		the committee.
149	Rep. Brown	Relates to personal anecdote. Asks if this law would cover a boat being towed.
156	Taylor	Comments that if it is considered a vehicle yes it would.
165	Rep. Nelson	Asks if there is a law for school buses and travel trailer.
174	Taylor	States school buses are exempt, there has been legislation addressing this issue in the last couple of sessions.
176	Rep. Nelson	Asks what about vans for daycare facilities.
183	Taylor	Responds that she can look into all the questions and get the information back to the committee.
190	Glenn Chastain	Sergeant with the Oregon State Police Patrol Division. Testifies
		in support of HB 2411. Presents written testimony (EXHIBIT C).
211	Chair Starr	Asks to address the question regarding passengers riding in an open boat being towed.
212	Chastain	Responds that it is prohibited based on the laws governing the trailer. States there is an exemption for a fifth wheel trailer if it has an intercom system.
224	Jean Underhill-	Associate Director, Oregon Farm Bureau Federation. Testifies in
	Wilkinson	opposition to HB 2411. Submits and refers to written testimony
	w likinson	(EXHIBIT D). States it decreases the flexibility of the farmers need to transport farm workers and equipment in the cargo areas
		of pickups when necessary.
279	Jim Welsh	Speaking for the Oregon Family Farm Association. Testifies in

		opposition to HB 2411. Points out that a pickup in the farming
		industry is a multi-use business tool. States that some exceptions
210		need to be made for the farming community.
319	Katie Cate	Representing the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Testifies in
		opposition to HB 2411. Discusses the need to transport family or
250	Dan Vranf	employees in the bed of a pickup.
350	Rep. Kropf	Asks if what type of amendment could be added to HB 2411 to
250	T TT. J1. 11	support the agricultural community.
356	Jean Underhill-	Comments that they are willing to work with the committee to
	Wilkinson	come up with acceptable language.
362	Chair Starr	Asks if an exemption for minors involved in agricultural
		activities would suffice.
364	Underhill-Wilkinson	Would like to discuss this suggestion with her transportation
		committee. States tentatively that it could be a viable solution.
380	Rep. Devlin	States there is another bill before the committee asking for an
		exemption to the graduated licensing program. If that exemption
• • •		were in place would she be willing to concede on this bill.
396	Underhill-Wilkinson	Comments that if there could be something worked out with the
		provisional drivers license bill that would be a possible option.
<u>TAPE 37, B</u>	T D: 191	
002	Joanne Fairchild	Trauma Nurse Coordinator, Legacy Emanuel Hospital. Submits
012	A 1: T 1	written testimony in support of HB 2411 (EXHIBIT E).
013	Alice Lasher	Representing Oregon Safe Kids Coalition and Sandy Fire
		District. Comments that her community is made up mostly of
030	Lasher	nursing and farming facilities. Testifies in support of HB 2411.
030	Lasher	Refers to Representative Merkley's question regarding carbon
		monoxide poisoning. States she previously worked for the Portland Fire District and she was on a call that involved a
		family moving from California to Oregon, they thought the 3
		children were sleeping, but in fact had died from carbon
		monoxide poisoning in the back of the pickup covered by a
		canopy.
042	Mike Dewey	Representing Oregon Wheat Growers League and Potato
012	Winke Dewey	Growers of Oregon. Testifies in opposition of HB 2411. States
		that farmers and ranchers are growing in number and need to use
		this type of vehicle in transporting large numbers of people.
		States they like to see an exemption for firefighters in emergency
		situations.
072	Rep. Rosenbaum	Asks what is the prevalence of minors are used to fight fires.
074	Dewey	Comments that he is speaking of wheat fires and states it needs
	2	to put out as quickly as possible to save the crop. States that
		people are moved from all locations and all ages to get the fire
		put out.
090	Rep. Rosenbaum	Asks for clarification.
096	Dewey	States that fires are fought with pickups and individuals in the
		backs of those pickups their main use is getting firefighters from
		other locations to the area of the fire.
101	Chair Starr	Asks how do they fight a wheat fire.
102	Dewey	Comments that you have a water pickup, but the fire needs to be
		contained prior to getting that truck in place.
115	Chair Starr	Closes the public hearing on HB 2411 and reopens the public
		hearing on HB 2681.
HR 2681 PUR	LIC HEARING (CONTI	NUED)

HB 2681 PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED)

120	Rep. Richard Devlin	House District 24. Testifies in support of HB 2681. Details the interpretations of previous bills. Presents and refers to written testimony (EXHIBIT F).
171	Rep. Devlin	Comments that the bill will establish reasonable care and welfare of the animals in open bed pickups.
194	Rep. Devlin	States the history of this bill. Explains that the proponents worked with the agricultural community to improve the language. Comments in addition, prior to the bill being introduced they again worked with the agricultural community to improve exemptions. Explains that if the bill comes back for a work session that they do have language that may better address those exemptions beyond last session.
208	Rep. Devlin	Comments that HB 2411 and HB 2681 are common sense bills. States both have been addressed by previous legislators trying to save lives. Says that the fundamentals of both bills are to protect public safety and urges committee to vote yes for both bills.
217	Rep. Merkley	Asks if the external part of the vehicle was interpreted not to include the bed of a pickup.
224	Rep. Devlin	Comments that the interpretation is unclear. States this will help to clearly define what the external part of a vehicle is.
238	Rep. Nelson	Relates personal anecdote. Asks that a medical exemption for stray animals be included in this bill.
252	Rep. Devlin	Comments they would be happy to address those issues as well as others.
264	Chair Starr	Explains written amendments to the bills.
270	Randy Corey	Lieutenant, Law Enforcement Division, Oregon Humane Society. Testifies in support of HB 2681. Submits and refers to written testimony (EXHIBIT G) .
345	Corey	Refers to Representative Devlin's testimony that the interpretation of the law allows the animal to be free in the back of a pick up under the premise that the framework of the bed will keep them from falling out.
353	Rep. Devlin	States that this bill will provide clarity to the current laws, which does not require animals to be restrained. Agrees that with a work session could come to an agreement with language that would address any concerns outstanding.
375	Rep. Kurt Schrader	House District 23. Testifies in support of HB 2681. Comments that he is a veterinarian and from his standpoint feels the bill is fair to the animals it protects and the agricultural community.
403	Chair Starr	Closes public hearing on HB 2681 and adjourns meeting.
Submitted By,		Reviewed By,

Kate Campeau, Committee Assistant John Leon, Committee Administrator

Transcribed By,

Pamela Johansen, Committee Assistant

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A HB 2411, written testimony, Troy Buzalsky, 28 pp.
- B HB 2411, written testimony, Kelly Taylor, 4 pp.
- C HB 2411, written testimony, Glen Chastain, 1 p
- D HB 2411, written testimony, Jean Underhill-Wilkinson, 1 p
- E HB 2411, written testimony, Joanne Fairchild, 1 p
- F HB 2681, written testimony, Rep. Richard Devlin, 1 p
- G HB 2681, written testimony, Randy Corey, 1 p