

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

April 02, 2001  
8:30 AM

Hearing Room D  
Tapes 80-82

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**     **Rep. Bruce Starr, Chair**  
                                  **Rep. Alan Brown, Vice-Chair**  
                                  **Rep. Jeff Merkley, Vice-Chair**  
                                  **Rep. Richard Devlin**  
                                  **Rep. Jeff Knopf**  
                                  **Rep. Donna Nelson**  
                                  **Rep. Diane Rosenbaum**  
                                  **Rep. Joanne Verger**  
                                  **Rep. Cliff Zauner**

**STAFF PRESENT:**       **John Leon, Committee Administrator**  
                                  **Kate Campeau, Committee Assistant**

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:**     **HB 3591 Public Hearing**  
                                  **HB 2705 Public Hearing**  
                                  **HCR 9 Public Hearing and Work Session**  
                                  **HB 3946 Public Hearing**  
                                  **HB 2562 Work Session**

---

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

---

<b>TAPE/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>TAPE 80, A</b>		
003	Chair Starr	Calls the committee to order at 8:33 a.m. and opens a public hearing on HB 3591
<b><u>HB 3591 PUBLIC HEARING</u></b>		
006	John Leon	Committee Administrator. Reads synopsis of HB 3591.
010	Rep. Mark Simmons	House District 58. Submit written testimony ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ). Discusses the effects of DMV office closures throughout the state, particularly in Milton-Freewater.
015	Debra Schneck	Member of Milton-Freewater City Council. Testifies on behalf of HB 3591 that addresses the need for DMV services in Milton-Freewater.
050	Rep. Merkley	Asks how many other cities would be impacted by this bill.
070	Rep. Simmons	Answers that Milton-Freewater is the only town specified in this bill.
080	Rep. Merkley	Asks if it would be satisfactory to open for two days or more often.
090	Schneck	States that any option would be agreeable.
100	Rep. Nelson	Asks if there has been any discussion of auto dealerships being used as DMV facilities, etc.
120	Schneck	Answers that there are not many county offices. Auto dealerships currently have some arrangement to expeditiously process paperwork, but citizens have no such advantage.
129	Rep. Nelson	Asks if there are any businesses that would be willing to act as a DMV office.

135	Schneck	Answers that the net savings were only \$47,000 as quoted by ODOT, which is the salary figure for staff.
167	Rep. Rosenbaum	Asks if the office would go back into the same location.
178	Schneck	States that rent is already paid through the end of June.
180	Rep. Brown	Asks if Milton-Freewater will pay rent.
190	Schneck	Answers yes.
200	Jean Underhill Wilkinson	Associate Director, Governmental Affairs Oregon Farm Bureau. Submits written testimony ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ). Speaks in favor of HB 3591.
300	Mike Dewey	Oregon Wheat Growers League. Submits written testimony ( <b>EXHIBIT C</b> ). Speaks in favor of HB 3591.
350	Rep. Nelson	Asks about using E-mail to get permits.
400	Dewey Chair Starr	Discusses attempts at various solutions to this problem. Closes the public hearing on HB 3591 and opens a public hearing on HB 2705.

**HB 2705 PUBLIC HEARING**

**TAPE 81, A**

010	Rep. Tim Knopp	House District 54. Testifies in favor of 2705. Submits -3 amendment ( <b>EXHIBIT D</b> ). Requests restoration of DMV offices that were closed.
100	Rep. Al King	House District 44. Testifies on 2705. Submits -1 amendments ( <b>EXHIBIT E</b> ). Talks about fiscal impact of closures on community.
120	Rep. Verger	States that DMV closures have impacted many communities and that communities have offered every manner of conciliation to facilitate reopening of offices.
150	Rep. King	States that the bill speaks to specific area but would like to include other communities as well.
140	Rep. Devlin	States that services are going to have a cost. Asks if full cost recovery will be supported.
160	Rep. Knopp	States that services should pay for themselves and supports any ideas that Rep. Devlin may have.
170	Rep. King	Points out that Oregon is least expensive registration state in country.
190	Kelly Taylor	Legislative Liaison, Oregon Department of Transportation. Submits written testimony ( <b>EXHIBIT F</b> ). Explains the rationale behind DMV office closures. States that ODOT does not own the buildings and rent is an issue that is looked at closely. Details all the factors in determining which offices could be replaced by nearby locations.
300	Chair Starr	Asks if technology is possible to put computer in city halls, etc.
330	Taylor	Answers that there is nothing in the budget to incorporate technological additions throughout the state. States that there is a web page and that DMV has the most hits.
350	Rep. Kropf	Asks about DMV services through car dealers.
380	Taylor	Answers that the car dealer will have plates and stickers, and when car is purchased all the paper work is completed and the car is properly registered. Continues explanation stating that the information is transferred from dealer to integrator who will complete the update process. States that the bill was passed in '97 legislative session that allows DMV to do this procedure and that this course of action is being pursued.
400	Rep. Brown	Asks if city governments are willing to provide personnel and if cross training is possible.

430 Taylor Answers that a great deal of DMV business is very complex and training would be difficult, but these issues are being seriously considered.

Written testimony from the City of Oakridge submitted by staff (EXHIBIT G).

440 Chair Starr Closes the public hearing on HB 2705 and reopens the public hearing on 3591.

**HB 3591 PUBLIC HEARING**

449 Taylor Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT H).

450 Questions, responses and comments between Rep. Devlin and Mr. Taylor regarding diminishment of personnel costs and cost efficiency of maintaining various offices.

**TAPE 80, B**

006 Rep. Zauner Asks where the positions go when these various offices are closed.

010 Taylor Answers that unless there are positions available elsewhere the employees will be laid off. Adds that positions can be shifted to locations that are in need of staff.

020 Zauner States that in order to save money DMV needs to lay off people. Asks for clarification on this issue.

025 Taylor Refers to the flat budget and states that it has fewer positions. States that there will be less service out of headquarters as well as in the field.

030 Chair Starr Contributes that in next biennium's budget, 33 positions will be cut as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Clarifies that eighteen positions in the DMV field offices have not been cut, and there may be some positions unfilled. States that if the budget goes forward these positions will be eliminated.

053 Rep. Rosenbaum Asks about one-time start up costs and the difference in locations.

057 Taylor Answers that in the Milton-Freewater location, permanent position funding is needed, whereas in other locations DMV would be borrowing to pay part-time salaries.

066 Rep. Rosenbaum Asks why one-time start up costs would be more to open one office as opposed to opening two as specified in the other bill.

078 Taylor States that she would have to do more research to answer this question.

080 Rep. Rosenbaum Asks if Ms. Taylor could quote a start-up cost for a one-time office reopening.

088 Taylor Answers that cost could include many factors.

100 Chair Starr Asks about the 33 employees that will be cut: asks if those positions actually be cut or can those employees be moved to other positions.

110 Taylor Answers that unless there are empty positions available they will be cut.

120 Rep. Nelson Asks what tasks performed by DMV require most service.

130 Taylor Answers that titles represent a large volume of work. States that for face-to-face service, driver's license is labor intensive as well as reinstatement of driver's licenses.

138 Rep. Nelson Asks if many of the services provided by DMV can be found in the private sector and by other means.

140 Taylor States that many of the services can indeed be found elsewhere.

Chair Starr Closes the public hearing on HB 3591 and opens a public hearing on HCR 9.

**HCR 9 PUBLIC HEARING**

	Rep. Betsy Johnson	House District 1. Testifies on behalf of this bill which honors bar heroic efforts of bar pilots.
	Brad Witt	Oregon AFL-CIO. Testifies on behalf of HCR 9. States that one-third of states economy is tied to work that is done on the Columbia River.
206	Jim Townley	Executive Director, Columbia River Steam Ship Operator's Association. Testifies in opposition of this bill. States that it is premature.
250	Rep. Merkley	Asks if Rep. Johnson has any responses to the objections stated by Mr. Townley.
300	Rep. Johnson	States that she introduced this bill to celebrate bravery.
330	Rep. Rosenbaum	Asks if there is legislation to continue this program beyond the August date when file period expires.
350	Rep. Johnson	States that the program will be evaluated but unaware of any legislation.

Written testimony of Susan Johnson, Board of Maritime Pilots, in opposition to HCR 9 submitted by staff **(EXHIBIT I)**.

Chair Starr Closes the public hearing and opens a work session on HCR 9.

**HCR 9 WORK SESSION**

**422 Rep. Nelson MOTION: Moves HCR 9 be sent to the floor with a BE ADOPTED recommendation.**

**VOTE: 9-0**

**AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.**

**424 Chair Starr The motion CARRIES.**

**REP. JOHNSON will lead discussion on the floor.**

Chair Starr Closes the work session on HCR 9 and opens a public hearing on HB 3946.

**HB 3946 PUBLIC HEARING**

**TAPE 81, B**

034	Leon	Reads synopsis of bill. States that there will be a subsequent referral to House School Funding and Tax Fairness Revenue Committee.
039	Rep. Bruce Starr	House District 3. Testifies on the merits of this bill. States that a nine- member task force will be set up to oversee implementation of pilot projects of ODOT. States that pilot task force will be revenue neutral. States that taxes are not being raised and that this task force has a sunset in 2010.
088	Rep. Jerry Krummel	House District 27. Discusses briefly the merits of this bill and explains to committee the characteristics of the proposed pilot task force and the reasons why this task force is necessary.
110	Chair Starr	States that for the future of Oregon's roads, alternate needs of funding must be found.
118	Rep. Nelson	Asks if bill could have another name.
153	Chair Starr	Clarifies that specific legislator could be reappointed to the task force after a four-year term.
173	Rep. Nelson	Asks about different categories of pilot programs.
179	Rep. Krummel	States that this bill is not meant to be an economically developmental tool, but to bring about Legislative approval for the creation of a task force and then for the task force to study different alternative methods to tax citizens for their use of the roads so that the roads can be maintained.
360	Mike Marsh	Oregon Department of Transportation. Discusses HB 3946 and submits written testimony <b>(EXHIBIT J)</b> . Concurs with Chair

		Starr and Rep. Krummel’s statements that methods of fuel efficiency are necessitating a different approach for procuring road funding.
401	Rep. Devlin	Asks if when looking at alternative method of funding other than fuel tax will it be possible to determine how a replacement will be paid by users.
424	Marsh	Answers that technology and different types of users will be looked at. States that tourism will be a major funding resource.
<b>TAPE 82, A</b>		
018	Matt Blevins	1000 Friends of Oregon. Testifies in favor of this bill and that the bill has a great deal of potential to link travel choices and the impact of those choices to funding. States agreement with Chair Starr’s position that users should pay the full cost of their impact on transportation.
020	Jacob Brostoff	Oregon Environmental Council. States that the state will need alternative methods of funding and supports the concept of pilot program to test ideas.
028	John Watt	Jackson County and Southern Oregon Transportation Association. Talks about the importance of this bill. Talks about the anticipation that this bill would be very interesting to the public. Comments that encouraging involvement outside the building is vitally important.
053	Chair Starr	Closes the public hearing on 3946 and opens a work session on HB 2562.
<b><u>HB 2562 WORK SESSION</u></b>		
054	Leon	Submits –A3 amendment ( <b>EXHIBIT K</b> ).
<b>056</b>	<b>Rep. Devlin</b>	<b>MOTION: Moves to ADOPT HB 2562-A3 amendments.</b>
076	Rep. Kropf	Lauds the careful scrutiny of Rep. Rosenbaum for catching the wording change.
<b>083</b>	<b>Rep. Devlin</b>	<b>MOTION: Moves HB 2562 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.</b>
		<b>VOTE: 9-0</b>
		<b>AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.</b>
<b>085</b>	<b>Chair Starr</b>	<b>The motion CARRIES.</b>
		<b>REP. DEVLIN will lead discussion on the floor.</b>
087	Chair Starr	Closes the work session on HB 2562 and adjourns the committee at 10:44 a.m.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Kate Campeau,  
Committee Assistant

John Leon,  
Committee Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A - HB 3591, Rep. Mark Simmons, written testimony, 3 pp.**
- B – HB 3591, H.T. Rea Farming Corp., written testimony, 2 pp.**
- C – HB 3591, Farm Bureau, written testimony, 1 p.**
- D – HB 2705, -3 amendment, 1 p.**
- E – HB 2705 –3 amendment, 1 p.**

- F – HB 2705, Oregon Department of Transportation, Kelly Taylor, written testimony, 1 p.**
- G – HB 2705, City of Oakridge, written testimony, 2 pp.**
- H – HB 3591, Oregon Department of Transportation, Kelly Taylor, written testimony, 1 p.**
- I – HCR 9, Board of Maritime Pilots, written testimony, 2 pp.**
- J – HB 3946, Oregon Department of Transportation, written testimony, 2 pp.**
- K – HB 2562-A3 amendment, 1 p.**