

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND
TRANSPORTATION**

March 08, 2001 Hearing Room 343
3:00 pm Tapes 51 - 53

MEMBERS PRESENT: **Sen. Gary George, Chair**
 Sen. Rick Metsger, Vice-Chair
 Sen. Margaret Carter
 Sen. Bev Clarno
 Sen. Ken Messerle

STAFF PRESENT: **Patrick Balducci, Administrator**
 Nancy Masee, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:
 SB 445 Public Hearing and Work Session
 SB 753 Public Hearing
 SB 85 Public Hearing

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.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE , A		
008	Sen. Gary George	Chair. Opens meeting at 3:20 pm. Opens public hearing on SB 445.
SB 445 PUBLIC HEARING		
010	Patrick Balducci	Committee Administrator. Explains SB 445.
022	Jean Wilkinson	Oregon Farm Bureau. Discusses changes to SB 445 with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oregon State Police (OSP). Discusses the issue that all terrain vehicles (ATV)s be required to operate with lights on.
030	Glen Stonebrink	Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Supports SB 445 with amendments. Says it is a good bill that should pass.
050	Sen. Messerle	Asks what kind of "slow moving" sign would be attached to the vehicle.
052	Wilkinson	Answers she is not sure how they are fastened on. Perhaps a sticker would be best.
055	Chair George	Describes several possible ways to display slow moving vehicle.
066	Curt Curtis	OSP. Thanks committee for listening to the OSP issues. Agrees with issues that were discussed by the work group.
070	Sen. Carter	Asks if the vehicle can operate so that it is safe to the public.
079	Curtis	Explains the issues that were discussed.
090	Sen. Carter	States her concern is whether there will be enough lighting to protect operating ATVs from fast moving vehicles.
095	Sen. George	Closes public hearing. Opens work session on SB 445.
096	Sen. Metsger	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 445-1 amendments dated 02/14/01.
097		VOTE: 5-0
	Chair	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
098	Sen. Metsger	MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 445-2 amendments dated

055	Michelle Marquart	Manager Mt Hood Railroad. Introduces Dan Reynolds. Supports SB 753. Gives background on the Mt. Hood Railroad. Explains need for applications for loans to upgrade the line for passenger and freight rail. Describes the \$2.2 million loan they plan to seek from the feapplied for. Describes the economy in Hood River that the rail line serves (EXHIBIT D) .
100	Sen. Metsger	Discusses Hood River Valley need for the railroad.
110	Markort	Replies that jobs and lumber mills are at stake along the line. Describes possible additional commerce on the line.
120	Dan Reynolds	Mt. Hood Railroad. Describes the impact of 300 to 400 truckloads moved by rail. A rail car carries about three truckloads.
173	Sen. Messerle	Recognizes the need for shortline railroad transportation throughout the state. Describes the Port of Coos Bay's need for shortline connection.
195	Everett Cutter	Manager, Oregon Railroad Association. Represents the Burlington Northern, Sante Fe, and Union Pacific railroads. Class 1 railroads support the shortlines (EXHIBIT E) .
210	Mike Root	President, Albany and Eastern Railroad, 70 miles long. Handle approximately 6,000 cars this year. Describes need for maintenance funds and to maintain customers.
220	Chair George	Asks Sen. Metsger to refine this bill with a work group. Closes public hearing on SB 753. Opens public hearing on SB 85.

SB 85 PUBLIC HEARING

240	Balducci	Explains SB 85. Describes amendment. Shows video how school bus safety belts would protect students.
-----	----------	--

TAPE 51,B

040	Sen. Peter Courtney	Senate District 17. Explains studies on seat belts for school buses. Five states have mandatory seat belt laws for school buses. Ten other states are considering seat belts for school buses. Supports the -1 amendments. States that no children have been killed in Oregon in school buses in the last 24 years, however, over 20 children have been killed using other vehicles during school hours in the last 3 years. Supports the -1 amendments. Discusses safety needed in vans (EXHIBIT F) .
168	Sen. Carter	Asks if seat belts should be put in inferior buses.
185	Sen. Courtney	Answers that if it involves a harness, yes.
200	Sen. Metsger	Asks if vehicles used for public transportation have to meet federal safety standards.
210	Sen. Courtney	Answers that is correct.
235	Sen. Messerle	Asks what a reasonable time frame would be to update the older buses for safety.
238	Sen. Courtney	To bring up to federal standards, answers 5 years to 10 years.
250	Sen. Messerle	Answers that the older buses should be phased out by then.
264	Sen. Carter	School Districts should get the old buses off the streets and not be driving inferior vans that do not protect the children.
280	Tricia Smith	School Employees Association. Says school buses are safe. No child in the last 24 years has been killed in a school bus. However, smaller vehicles, vans, have are much less safe and over 20 children have been killed in these vehicles in the past 3 years. Supports the -1 amendments (EXHIBIT G) .

TAPE 52, B

129	Ron Rogers	Formerly of School Employees Association. Discusses school bus safety. Explains school bus driver training. Says the requirements for school bus drivers' license surpass the requirements of a Commercial Drivers License (CDL). However, when transporting students in a vehicle that holds fewer than 15, a school bus license and a CDL license are not required.
160	Chair George	Asks about the older metal-backed seats in old buses and how much it would cost to equip those buses with seat and harness belts.
165	Rogers	Answers the cost of updating those buses would be too great; they should be retired.
210	Chuck Bennett	Confederation of School Administrators (COSA). Asks if this bill is needed. New York and New Jersey school buses have seat belts. Other states that have passed seat belt laws but not installed them. Discusses the different choices of transportation that schools have to transport students. Explains the older buses are being rapidly retired (EXHIBIT H).
400	Jim Green	Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA). Continues discussing school bus safety. Says the statutes contain adequate safety regulations with the record today. There is no reason for SB 85. Changes could be made through rule making.
SB 53, A		
051	Sen. Metsger	Asks if children should travel in vehicles that meet federal safety standards. Discusses the -1 amendments.
070	Deborah Lincoln	Director of Transportation, Oregon Department of Education. Explains that National Minimum Standards referred to in statute takes place every five years and is not the same thing as the Motor Vehicle Safety Standards.
080	Sen. Metsger	Asks if the Federal Board of Safety Standards are more or less stringent than the minimum national standards referred to in current statute.
090	Lincoln	They may address issues other than safety. National Standards has no regulatory authority for any state.
099	Sen. Metsger	Asks when is a reasonable time to meet all these standards.
110	Bennett	Responds in five to ten years.
118	Sen. Metsger	Asks if all school districts purchase their own school buses.
122	Bennett	Answers some lease. Some contract out their transportation services. Describes local decisions.
128	Sen. Metsger	Asks if there are other means for using school buses.
133	Bennett	Suggests getting experts in the area of leasing or contracting. School boards and local decisions are made.
140	Chair George	Asks if private contractors can operate vehicles not meeting federal motor vehicle standards for buses.
145	Lincoln	Answers private contractors have to meet the same requirements as school districts.
150	Chair George	Asks for a list of private contractors who are operating pre-1977 buses. Asks for a list of vans being operated that are not school bus equivalent.
160	Sen. Carter	States that there should not be pre-1977 buses running.
237	Chair George	Comments there will be further discussion on this bill. Adjourns 5:25 pm.

Submitted By,

Reviewed By,

Nancy Masee,
Committee Assistant

Patrick Balducci,
Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A – SB 753, Walter Brickwedel, 2pp

B – SB 753, Claudia Howells, 2 pp

C – SB 753, Ed Immel, 2 pp

D – SB 753, Michelle Marquart, 9 pp

E – SB 753, Ed Cutter, 1 p

F – SB 85, Sen. Peter Courtney, 2 pp

G – SB 85, Tricia Smith, 6 pp

H – SB 85, Chuck Bennett, 5 pp