

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

March 14, 1997 Hearing Room D

8:30 AM Tapes 46-47

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Bob Montgomery, Chair

Rep. Mike Lehman, Vice-Chair

Rep. Tim Josi

Rep. Jane Lokan

Rep. Bill Markham

Rep. Lonnie Roberts

Rep. Larry Wells

MEMBER EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT:

Janet Adkins, Policy Analyst

Debi Parker, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

HB 2602 Public Hearing

HB 2651 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.

Tape/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 46, A		
005	Chair Montgomery	Opens meeting at 8:35 and opens public hearing on HB 2602.
<u>HB 2602 Public Hearing</u>		
008	Rep. Ron	State Representative. Explains that this bill defines the electric assisted bicycle and creates a new code for this machine

	Adams	because of it's unique capabilities.
018	John Geffen	General Manager, Ron Tonkin's Electrical Vehicle Division. Explains that he is in support of HB 2602. Discusses why we should encourage the use of electric assisted bicycles. Provides written testimony (EXHIBIT A)
055	Rep. Adams	Demonstrates the electric bicycle for the hearing room.
065	Geffen	Explains the current laws as it relates to electric assisted bicycles. Discusses the difference between electric bicycles and mopeds.
080	Rep. Markham	What is the current moped law?
086	Geffen	It requires an operating taillight, a daytime headlight, registration with Department of Motor Vehicles and separate insurance, a horn and fenders.
090	Chair Montgomery	How much does an electric bicycle cost?
093	Geffen	An electric bicycle costs \$599.
110	Rep. Lokan	What are the safety features on this bicycle?
115	Geffen	The bill suggests that this not be used on sidewalks. The power system and rack will fit to any bicycle.
122	Rep. Adams	The electric bicycle that he is familiar with is the same size as a non-electric bicycle.
134	Rep. Wells	What is the age requirement for an electric bicycle?
134	Geffen	It is 16 years of age.
137	Chair Montgomery	How fast does one of these go?
139	Geffen	An electric bicycle can travel up to 16 miles an hour.
147	Rep. Wells	How are you going to monitor children under 16 driving them.
154	Geffen	We explain the age requirements when we sell the bicycles.
165	Rep. Adams	Explains that he understands the concern. Believes that there is not enforcement but that they do explain the law to people who are buying the bicycle.
175	Geffen	Responds that people over 50 years of age are the people most commonly interested in purchasing an electric bicycle.
192	Brad Rourke	Represents three electric bicycle manufacturers in Pasadena California. Explains that there are a number of states that are working on or have passed electric assisted bicycle legislation.
215	Rep. Lokan	What has been the result of people using electric bicycles?
221	Rourke	There has not been an analytical study, nor any anecdotal results. Explains that bicycle patrol operations in police departments are using electric assisted bicycles and they find them to be very helpful.

250	Geffen	The systems are set up not to operate on their own power, but merely in assistance to the power of a person pedaling the bicycle.
273	Ed Marges	Manager of the Transportation Safety Section for the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles. Provides written materials (EXHIBIT B). Oregon Department of Transportation has taken a neutral position on the bill.
288		Explains that they support the bill because these bicycles have the capability for assisting lesser abled people and it is a clean running form of transportation.
296		Explains the concerns they have about the bill. Including; it creates a class of unlicensed riders, they are not mandated to wear helmets and it would also allow use of a vehicle by people who are not allowed to drive a car.
345	Rep. Josi	Explains that once you retrofit a regular bicycle with a power pack it becomes a regular motor vehicle.
355	Michael Mool	Staff at the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program at the Oregon Department of Transportation. Explains that you would not be able to travel long distance using this bicycle's motor without human assistance.
398	Chair Montgomery	With the technology that we have now, why couldn't they put a battery charger on the front of the bicycle?
412	Mool	Explains that he does not believe that you can have a perpetual motion machine.
AUDIO DIFFICULTIES		
TAPE 46,A-TAPE 47,A		
TAPE 46,B		
020	Lt. Glenn Rader	Patrol Services, Oregon State Police. Oregon law states that a motor vehicle is a self propelled machine. For example, if a car is being towed, it is still classified as a motor vehicle. Explains that they are also concerned about being able to locate stolen bicycles that are not registered and enforcing the age requirement.
044	Janet Adkins	The bill does not create an offense for operating this bicycle if the driver is under 16. Is there another law that creates an offense for this?
054	Rader	This is out of the realm of motor vehicles so if you get caught riding this and your under 16, there are no ramifications.
070	Rep. Wells	What is the cost currently for registration of electric bicycles?
067	Geffen	Total registration for two years is \$20.50. Understanding is that the Department of Motor Vehicles is not interested in registering these vehicles.

088	Adkins	Do some jurisdictions site for driving a bicycle under the influence of alcohol?
099	Rader	Yes, a bicycle does fall under this statute. We do arrest people for operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol.
125	Geffen	If it didn't have pedals on it, the bicycle would be a moped, since these are electric assisted they are not vehicles.
144	Rep. Lehman	What you have proposed is a broad expansion of the law.
173	Chair	Closes public hearing on HB 2602, opens work session on HB 2651.
<u>HB 2651 WORK SESSION</u>		
181	Adkins	Explains HB 2561 and the -4 amendments. It redefines residential districts for the purpose of the 25 mile an hour speed limits. Provides that some areas not technically defined as residential be redefined. Provides background on basic rule statute. The bill affects both residential districts within and outside urban areas.
232	Rep. Wells	Can you repeat for me again the reason for having this one-hundred thousand population?
237	Adkins	In 811.105, it is the basic rule speed. It is outside of the urban areas where the basic rule applies. Explains difference between speed limit and basic rule speed.
307		Provides additional clarification on the statutes as they relate to HB 2651.
312	Rep. Lehman	MOTION: Moves HB 2651 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.
		VOTE: 6-0 EXCUSED: 1 - Roberts
320	Chair Montgomery	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
342		Adjourns committee at 10:00am.

Submitted By, Reviewed By, Transcribed by,

Debi Parker, Janet Adkins, Berri Sellers,

Administrative Support Administrator Administrative Support

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - HB 2602, written testimony, Jon Geffen, 3pp.

B - HB 2602, written testimony, Michael Ronkin, 2pp.