

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

April 21, 1997 Hearing Room D

8:30 AM Tapes 86 - 87

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

Erik Deitz, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

HB 2602 Work Session

HB 3463 Public Hearing and Work Session

HB 3496 Public Hearing

HB 3428 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 86, A		
005	Chair Montgomery	Calls meeting to order at 8:34 AM, opens work session on HB 2602.

<u>HB 2602</u>		
<u>WORK</u>		
<u>SESSION</u>		
007	Janet Adkins	Policy Analyst, explains HB 2602 to committee and audience.
025	Rep. Roberts	Asks about specific wording regarding age requirements for electric bicycles. Would like to drop age requirement to operate electric bicycle.
058	Brad Rourke	Electric Bicycle Manufacturer Representative, testifies what electric bicycles are and where they can be purchased. Explains the electric bicycle market.
074	Rep. Robert	Asks about electric tricycles and if they are mainly designed for disabled.
079	Rourke	Explains the age requirements for electric bicycles.
098	Rep. Roberts	Explains the age requirement for an electric bicycle. States the need for disabled kids to be able to keep up with other kids on bicycles.
115	Rep. Lehman	Asks the difference between mopeds and electric bicycles.
123	Rourke	Responds. Explains the difference in horsepower, pedals, and age requirements.
136	Rep. Lehman	Asks why they are not treated like mopeds.
143	Rourke	Responds that because the helmet laws are different, and that mopeds cannot be ridden on bike paths. Electric bicycles are not legal on regular streets.
156	Rep. Lokan	Asks about the safety of young people on electric bicycles.
167	Rep. Roberts	Explains that most people that purchase these bicycles will be disabled.
189	Kelly Taylor	Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), explains that the difference between mopeds and electric bicycles is one has an electric engine and the other has a combustible engine.
217	Rep. Roberts	Explains that bicycles being only electrically assisted is the key phrase.
233	Rep. Wells	Asks if the rider of electric bicycles must be 16.
240	Taylor	Responds yes.
249	Rep. Roberts	States that if this bill is passed people under sixteen with a disability would be able to keep up with other kids on bicycles.
274	Rep. Lehman	Explains that there is not a need for an electric bicycle operator to have a license.
295	Chair Montgomery	Closes work session on HB 3463, opens public hearing on HB 3463.
<u>HB 3463</u>		
<u>PUBLIC</u>		
<u>HEARING</u>		
300	Adkins	Explains HB 3463 to committee and audience.

335	Doug Tindall	Field Services Engineer at ODOT, explains the need to make minor changes in tire laws in Oregon. Explains the need to clarify exactly what studded tires are. Would like to change time frame for studded tires to be in line with Washington state.
Tape 87, A		
025	Richard Nordness	Northwest Tire Dealers, testifies about HB 3463 and the -1 amendments. Explains about the lightweight stud and its legalization. States that the lightweight stud does not work well on trucks. Explains that the studies on studs were done in European countries.
060	Rep. Roberts	Asks why we used studies done in Europeans countries.
066	Nordness	Responds that it is the only place studies have been done.
076	Chair Montgomery	Discusses driving conditions in his area and the wording in HB 3463.
090	Tindall	Explains about the need to be able to identify the tires from 25 feet away for the Oregon State Police.
103	Rep. Roberts	Asks why there is a need to be able to identify the tires.
107	Tindall	Responds that the police want to know what type of tire is being used.
157	Tindall	Continues testimony on the studless tire.
158	Chair Montgomery	Asks how many companies make the studless tire.
159	Ken Brown	Les Schwabb Tires, responds that there are five.
169	Rep. Roberts	Asks which tire is safer.
170	Nordness	Responds that the studded tire is safer. It stops faster, corners better and is just generally better. Testifies that the studless tire is not as safe and he wants the public to be aware.
197	Chair Montgomery	Explains that eventually studded tires are going to outlawed.
206	Rep. Markham	Asks if the heavier stud can be used in lighter stud tire.
216	Brown	Responds that it will not work
224	Don Vetter	Oregon resident, explains the number of people that use studded tires. States that the minority of people use studded tires. Testifies about the wear that studded tires cause. Explains the grooves down the highways that make travel unsafe.
274	Vetter	Explains that he uses walnut shell tires on his 1948 Chevrolet and they work well. States that he slammed on the brakes at 45 miles per hour in the snow and that he did not stop very fast. Explains that the public needs to be educated on the different types of tires.
324	Rep. Wells	Asks what the committee is doing with HB 3463.
330	Chair Montgomery	Responds.

346	Albert Rouse	Oregon citizen, testifies different highways show significant wear from studded snow tires. Explains that when highways groove out they fill with water and become unsafe.
Tape 86, B		
010	Rouse	Explains that he would like studded tires outlawed except on emergency vehicles. States he would like walnut tires or sawdust tires like the ones used in 1950's and 1960's. States that studded tires should be allowed only when chains are required.
046	Rep. Wells	Explains that there is confusion in the wording about traction tires, chains, and traction devices required.
058	Chair Montgomery	Closes public hearing on HB 3463, opens public hearing on HB 3496.
<u>HB 3496 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
091	Chair Montgomery	Closes public hearing on HB 3496, opens public hearing on HB 3428.
<u>HB 3428 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
104	Adkins	Explains HB 3428 to committee and audience.
117	Rep. Roberts	Asks for clarification in the vehicle codes that were changed in the 1993 session and the 1995 session.
140	Rep. Denny Jones	District 60, testifies in support of HB 3428.
160	Rep. Markham	Asks where the problem is with the axles.
180	Kristina McNitt	Associate Director of Government Affairs at the Oregon Farm Bureau, testifies in favor of HB 3428. Reads from written testimony (EXHIBIT C) .
207	Rep. Wells	States he supports this bill, it allows for one farmer to haul for other farmers for hire. Explains that it does not cause as much wear on the roads.
225	Rep. Jones	Testifies in support and states he agrees with McNitt.
247	Paul Henry	ODOT, explains HB 3428 and drop axles. States that there is a revenue impact.
259	Rep. Markham	Asks where the revenue impact is.
265	Henry	Responds that the drop axle will not be considered an axle. Explains that when the trailer is hauling the drop axle now needs to be taxed and insured, therefore a revenue impact.
288	Rep. Wells	Explains that farmers will not use the drop axle if it is taxed.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Erik Deitz, Janet Adkins,

Administrative Support Policy Analyst

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - HB 3463, -1 amendments, Janet Adkins, 6 pp

B - HB 3463, written testimony, Doug Tindall, 1 p

C - HB 3428, written testimony, Kristina McNitt, 1 p