

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

March 17, 1997 Hearing Room C

1:15 P.M. Tapes 40 - 41

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Sen. Marylin Shannon, Chair

Sen. Ken Baker, Vice-Chair

Sen. Joan Dukes

Sen. Gary George

Sen. Mae Yih

**MEMBER EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Lin Ludwick, Administrator

Nora Carlson, Administrative Support

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:**

**SB 620 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.**

<b>Tape/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>TAPE 40, A</b>		
003	Chair Shannon	Calls meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Opens public hearing on SB 620.
<b><u>SB 620 PUBLIC HEARING</u></b>		
005	Sen. Bob Kintigh	District 22, submits photo and provides testimony in support of SB 620 ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ).
037	Jude Mollgard	Accident Investigator for Adult & Family Services (AFS) but providing testimony as a private citizen in support of SB 620, issues discussed:  * accident reporting costs  * savings for the Department of Motor Vehicles Services (DMV)

074	Chair Shannon	Asks why AFS is involved in accident reporting.
078	Mollgard	Responds that it is through a federally mandated program which matches people involved in accidents with people on public assistance for collection purposes.
094	Troy Costales	Manager, Accident Data Unit, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) submits and provides testimony on SB 620 ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ).
144	Costales	Continues with testimony on the impact on data reporting due to reports not being filed.
160	Chair Shannon	Asks if he believes that data reporting would be hindered if the cost of filing for accident claims is raised to \$1000.
165	Costales	Responds that the current estimate is at 23% percent.
169	Chair Shannon	Question regarding other states that have raised their accident claim reporting to \$1000.
175	Sen. Baker	Asks when was the last time the cost for accident damage claims was increased.
179	Costales	Responds that he believes it was changed from \$400 to \$500 approximately four years ago.
180	Kelly Taylor	Government Relations, ODOT, responds that she will verify the exact year for the last increase.
190	Sen. Dukes	Asks if ODOT is opposed to the bill.
194	Taylor	Responds that the Transportation Commission has not reviewed the bill but that ODOT is concerned about the impact in tracking uninsured accidents and the lack of data for engineering decisions.
204	Sen. Dukes	Asks if director of ODOT has taken a position on the bill.
205	Taylor	Replies that the director is not familiar with the bill.
206	Sen. Dukes	Asks if the director of DMV supports the bill.
208	Taylor	Responds that she believes that Jan Curry is not in favor of the bill.
215	Sen. Dukes	Asks to explain how an uninsured driver would affect accident reporting.
217	Taylor	Responds that all reportable accidents are sent to insurance companies who verify whether a driver had vehicle insurance.
223	Sen. Dukes	Question regarding the percentage of accident reporting data.
232	Sen. Yih	Asks about earlier statement that ODOT will adjust the filing amount according to inflation rates next year and asks what that amount would be.
		Responds that she will not know the amount until next year and explains that a review is done every five years with data used from the

238	Taylor	previous 12 months.
251	Sen. Dukes	Refers to the deer and elk accident location handout and asks if most of the vehicle accidents involve deer and elk.
258	Costales	Agrees and outlines property damage accident locations involving deer and elk.
261	Sen. Dukes	Asks how ODOT would change a roadway design due to deer and elk accidents.
262	Costales	Responds that part of it would be with fencing and underpasses.
265	Sen. Dukes	Asks how you would train an animal to use an underpass.
267	Costales	Responds that training would be similar to cattle crossing.
273	John Powell	Representing State Farm and North Farms Insurance companies, provides testimony in opposition to SB 620.
330	Powell	Continues with testimony on the importance of roadway safety studies which have resulted in alleviating congested areas based on accident reporting.
347	Sen. George	Asks if the insurance companies already receive information on driver accidents.
350	Powell	Responds that they do not insure everyone so they will only have the data based on the individual who applies for insurance.
363	Sen. George	Asks if a DMV check would produce whether an individual had a record.
365	Powell	Identifies this as the record used for data collection.
373	Sen. George	Asks if the cost to the insurance company responding to 170,000 claims is worth the data received.
390	Powell	Responds that the value of the data bank will become unreliable.
400	Sen. Dukes	Asks if there were statistics which show that a person with multiple low damage accidents would most likely be involved in a more serious accident.
<b>TAPE 41, A</b>		
005	Powell	Confirms that the data collected allows for tracking of multiple low damage accident drivers.
014	Sen. Yih	Asks if there is data to show the number of accidents reported under the \$500 limit.
019	Powell	Identifies approximately 170,000 reports filed annually which involve two people reporting on the same accident.
028	Sen. Yih	Asks if accident claim limits were increased to \$1000, whether the number of reports filed would be reduced by half.

030	Powell	Responds that it would be reduced to approximately 25% percent.
034	Sen. George	Asks what percentage of accidents have an officer involved.
039	Powell	Responds that it would be a small percentage because most law enforcement jurisdictions only respond to fatal or serious injury accidents.
050	Mollgard	Describes policy which outlines circumstances in which the City of Salem and the State Police will become involved in an auto accident.
100	Mollgard	Continues with testimony on the State of Oregon's policy when someone applies for auto insurance.
113	Sen. Kintigh	Disagrees with Mr. Powell's statement on whether raising the claim limit would increase the number of people who would settle out of court.
127	Chair Baker	Adjourns meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Nora Carlson, Lin Ludwick,

Administrative Support Administrator

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

**A - SB 620, photo, Sen. Bob Kintigh, 1 p**

**B - SB 620, written materials, Troy Costales, 2 pp**

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