

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

Hearing Room
Tapes - 60

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sen. Ken Baker, Chair
Sen. Mae Yih, Vice-Chair
Sen. John Lim
Sen. Dick Springer

MEMBER EXCUSED:

Sen. Marylin Shannon

STAFF PRESENT:

Janet Adkins, Committee Administrator
Gina Rumbaugh, Committee Assistant

MEASURES HEARD:

Info: Transfer of PUC transportation responsibilities to ODOT

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE , SIDE A

003 CHAIR BAKER: Calls the meeting to order (1:24PM).
-Introductory remarks

INFORMATION: TRANSFER OF PUC TRANSPORTATION RESPONSIBILITIES TO ODOT

Witnesses: Ben Wallace, Financial Branch, Oregon Department of
Transportation (ODOT)
Jane Cease, Manager, Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (DMV)
Joan Smith, Commissioner, Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Bob Russell, Assistant Commissioner, Transportation Program, PUC

015 BEN WALLACE, FINANCIAL BRANCH, ODOT: Begins review of submitted
material [EXHIBIT A].

045 -Phase I, page 2

085 -Appendix A, page 12

105 -Phase II, page 8

130 -Communication Strategy, page 10

160 JANE CEASE, MANAGER, DMV: In response to Sen. Baker, reviews Appendix
A.

235 SEN. SPRINGER: Requests answers to the following issues: Number of

field staff currently in ODOT that deal specifically with vehicle safety issues. Comparability of the pay scales and job training/descriptions. Extent to which the governor's office or the transportation commission have been briefed and had a chance to give comments or direction to this process.

275 SEN. LIM: It seems we are moving too fast. Are you doing this on the assumption that ODOT will assume PUC transportation responsibilities?

CHAIR BAKER: This was done at my request in consultation with other members of leadership in the Senate and the House. The agencies did not start the process.

310 SEN. YIH: Has your proposal of consolidating four divisions of PUC into different parts of ODOT shown any reduction in FTE?

WALLACE: We've done preliminary analysis on efficiencies that would be achieved, and are not quite ready to formulate comment in response to your question.

CHAIR BAKER: Explains reasoning for the bill--to bring the functions together for management under one agency. Deregulation of intrastate trucking provides some opportunity. There's no intention to affect any safety regulations. Not going to look at taxation methods.

365 CEASE: The effective date on LC Draft is 1/1/96; we anticipate before that time we would need to come to the Emergency Board for authority for positions and a budget.

CHAIR BAKER: Addresses several issues that need to be looked and further explains the intent of the bill.

410 SEN. LIM: I'd like more information for justification of this change.

TAPE 60, SIDE A

005 JOAN SMITH, COMMISSIONER, PUC: Submits and reads testimony [EXHIBIT B].
045 -Regulatory agencies at the federal level, page 2
100 -Enforcement staff, page 3
155 -Substantial costs for transfer, page 5
215 -Truck safety program, page 6
265 -Department of Transportation, page 7
320 -Household goods and passenger carriers, pages 8 and 9

405 SEN. SPRINGER: There seems to be an assumption that there's a linkage between the reorganization proposal and a goal to eliminate the weight-mile tax.

CHAIR BAKER: There is absolutely no linkage. We are not going to address the weight-mile tax.

SMITH: We've heard both sides and understand it's not linked. When we prepared the written testimony, we wanted to inform the committee as best we could at this point in time.

TAPE 59, SIDE B

015 SEN. YIH: Is there any further streamlining the PUC can do to maintain efficiency? We all have the impression that with deregulation, you have less trucks to regulate.

SMITH: Actually, we have more trucks to regulate because it's easier to be in the business.

SEN. YIH: What do you do less since preemption?

BOB RUSSELL, TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM, PUC: We don't do less in terms of entry, it's just less complicated. Explains recent staffing reductions and transfers.

SEN. YIH: When you have more entries, you regulate the rates less?

RUSSELL: Notes what they do and do not regulate.
065 -References chart, Exhibit B, page 11, and further explains staffing reduction

SEN. YIH: Requests information on how PUC can improve efficiencies by streamlining.

SEN. SPRINGER: Requests breakdown of how many newly registered trucks are out-of-state/long-haul versus locally-based/short-haul.

RUSSELL: All of the licenses we're discussing are to transfer commodities within the state of Oregon, not between states. Approximately 75% are very small--one or two trucks; 5% are over 150 trucks; and the remaining 20% fall in between.

105 CHAIR BAKER: References PUC MotorRail News, April 1995, that says more than half of the new carriers are single truck owner/operators.

SEN. LIM: Requests more information regarding the option of streamlining PUC as an alternative to merging with ODOT.

130 CHAIR BAKER: Adjourns the meeting.

Submitted by, Reviewed by,

Gina Rumbaugh Janet Adkins
Committee Assistant Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY:

- A - Testimony -- Ben Wallace/ODOT -- 14 pages
- B - Testimony -- Joan Smith/PUC -- 11 pages