

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.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

May 23, 1991Hearing Room C
8:00 a.m.Tapes 92 - 93

MEMBERS PRESENT:Sen. Joan Dukes, Chair
Sen. William McCoy, Vice-Chair
Sen. Peter Brockman
Sen. Scott Duff
Sen. Paul Phillips
Sen. Tricia Smith
Sen. Eugene Timms

MEMBER EXCUSED:

VISITING MEMBER:

STAFF PRESENT: Ruth Larson, Committee Administrator
Scott Marshall, Committee Assistant

MEASURES CONSIDERED: HB 2225 - Increases civil penalty from \$100 to \$500 for violating motor carrier rules. SB 838 - Authorizes Travel Information Council to establish fee schedule for certain signs. HB 2229 - Authorizes Public Utility Commission to enter into multijurisdictional agreement allowing motor carriers to pay to one jurisdiction total weight-mile taxes due by all jurisdictions that are party to agreement. HB 3572 - Transfers registration of certain vehicles over the 26,000 pounds from the Motor Vehicles Department to the Public Utility Commission. HB 2233 - Allows Public Utility Commission to accept payment of weight-mile taxes and fees by credit card. HB 2858 - Provides that vehicles registered under proportional registration are not required to have Oregon certificates of title.

WITNESSES:
Claudia Howells, Public Utility Commission
Bob Russell, " " " "
Danna Mercer, " " " "
Marlene Gorsuch, " " " "

Cheryl Gribskov, Travel Information Council
Dwayne Hofstetter, State Highway Division
Mike Meredith, Oregon Trucking Association

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TAPE 92, SIDE A

CHAIR DUKES: Calls the meeting to order at 8:17.

RUTH LARSON, COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR: Explains the items on today's agenda.

WORK SESSION ON HB 2225

LARSON: Reviews changes on HB 2225

SEN. SMITH: It was taken out, because there is no need have a public hearing process with the single violation.

MOTION: SENATOR SMITH MOVES THE -6 AMENDMENTS TO HB 2225.

VOTE: HEARING NO OBJECTION, CHAIR DUKES SO MOVES.

MOTION: SENATOR SMITH MOVES HB 2225 AS AMENDED TO THE FLOOR WITH A "DO PASS" RECOMMENDATION.

VOTE: IN A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIES, WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING AYE.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2229

LARSON: Reviews the status of HB 2229.

CLAUDIA HOWELLS, PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION: Testifies in favor of the bill.

BOB RUSSELL, PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

DANNA MERCER, PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION: Submits and reviews testimony.
(EXHIBIT D)

SEN. BROCKMAN: Do all states have the same weight-mile tax base?

RUSSELL: No. Some don't have it at all.

SEN. BROCKMAN: Will it increase the paper load?

RUSSELL: No, it won't, because we will have fewer accounts.

CHAIR DUKES: Is there alot of incentive to accurately audit?

RUSSELL: If we disagreed with another state's audit, we could audit them. There are two reasons we are doing this - one, it benefits the trucking industry, and two, it benefits us.

CHAIR DUKES: How much are we saving?

RUSSELL: Currently, we only have Arizona participating. As other states join, we will see cost benefits.

CHAIR DUKES: Do they also have to pass state legislation to join?

RUSSELL: They would have to change their weight-distance tax.

SEN. MCCOY: What other states back East are doing this?

RUSSELL: Only Arizona and us.

SEN. MCCOY: Are we are doing this now?

RUSSELL: Yes. It is a demonstration project. It's not ideal, because it's not uniform. This legislation would allow us to enter into an uniform agreement.

SEN. MCCOY: Do you mean having the same rates?

RUSSELL: No. The rates can be unique in each state.

SEN. MCCOY: How long have we been doing this with Arizona?

RUSSELL: Since last July. Because the numbers are small, we haven't realized significant savings yet. We do have the potential of reducing administrative costs.

SEN. TIMMS: How do you determine a company's base?

RUSSELL: They have to have a place of business with a telephone and they have to present records for audit purposes at that location.

SEN. TIMMS: Will there be an economic advantage in getting trucking outfits to Oregon due to this bill?

RUSSELL: If we can reduce regulatory burdens while not reducing revenues, there are benefits to the trucking industry, which may benefit Oregon's economy.

CHAIR DUKES: Under what authority do you have for pilot programs?

RUSSELL: We don't have any express authority to do a uniform agreement. They have to administer according to our rules. It will make it much easier for other states to join.

WORK SESSION ON HB 2229

MOTION: SENATOR PHILLIPS MOVES HB 2229 TO THE FLOOR WITH A "DO PASS" RECOMMENDATION.

VOTE: IN A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIES, WITH SENATORS TIMMS, DUFF, BROCKMAN, PHILLIPS, SMITH AND DUKES VOTING AYE, AND SENATOR MCCOY VOTING NAY.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 3572

LARSON: Reviews status of HB 3572.

MIKE MEREDITH, OREGON TRUCKING ASSOCIATION: Last session we dealt with a transfer of pro-rate vehicles to PUC. We would like to now move all intrastate trucks to PUC. This deals with just the registration of trucks 26,000 pounds and over. DMV will issue the title for those under 26,000 pounds. We will benefit by reducing the number of required plates from two to one plate. DMV and PUC will reduce their administrative costs. Time on the road will also be reduced. There will be some efficiency gains within the agencies.

TAPE 93, SIDE A

SEN. DUFF: Does this affect farm plates?

MEREDITH: No.

BOB RUSSELL: Submits and reviews testimony. (EXHIBIT E)

SEN. SMITH: What did you say in regards to registration and title?

MEREDITH: This bill would allow the truck operator to register his vehicle and put it into operation, and within 60-90 days he has to present proof of title to DMV.

RUSSELL: The goal was to get commercial vehicles on the road as fast as possible. Instead requiring them to title first, we will register them first and let them operate. Then we will give them some time to take care of the title process.

SEN. SMITH: What kind of information will you require, if the vehicle is not titled? And, if the vehicle is not titled within 60-90 day, what will you do?

RUSSELL: It's common to have vehicles leased in the trucking industry. Titling is the ownership issue and registration is the tax issue. DMV has the mechanisms to take action against the motor carrier. We can suspend the carriers authority to levy fines.

SEN. SMITH: If they don't present title information to DMV you can suspend them?

RUSSELL: We can suspend them under this bill.

CHAIR DUKES: Is this something you will phase in?

RUSSELL: No. We would have a licensed vehicle, but not a registered vehicle.

CHAIR DUKES: What do you have in place at PUC as a safeguard against untitled vehicles?

RUSSELL: With our port of entry system, if a carrier doesn't comply, and is stopped at a scale, the vehicle will not be allowed to continue. The weigh masters have computerized information.

SEN. MCCOY: Will we will reduce the fees, as per page 6, section 18?

RUSSELL: Yes. This reflects the switch to an annual registration rather than biennial.

CHAIR DUKES: You will be interacting twice. Can you do it for half the price?

RUSSELL: By stickering the plates costs are reduced. We will be able to do it. This bill eliminates the duplication. We have the same system now, but this bill eliminates the duplication.

SEN. MCCOY: When you weigh a truck is the cab included?

RUSSELL: A truck is weighed by axle. So, yes, all is considered.

SEN. MCCOY: In this bill, will the cab be excluded?

RUSSELL: Last session, we changed the way we register trucks. We used to register the power unit separate from the trailer. Now, the power unit is registered alone. The fees are the same, but they are paid on the power unit. They get a permanent registration plate for the trailer. We do not exclude the cab from anything. There are two situations where vehicles are registered at their light weight - mobile homes toters and tow trucks.

WORK SESSION ON HB 3572

MOTION: SENATOR SMITH MOVES HB 3572 TO THE FLOOR WITH A "DO PASS" RECOMMENDATION.

VOTE: IN A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIES, WITH SENATORS TIMMS, DUFF, BROCKMAN, PHILLIPS, SMITH, DUKES VOTING AYE, AND SENATOR MCCOY VOTING NAY.

WORK SESSION ON SB 838

LARSON: Reviews status of SB 838. Submits the -1 amendments. (EXHIBIT G)

CHERYL GRIBSKOV, TRAVEL INFORMATION COUNCIL: This amendment takes out the sliding fee of the bill. The annual fee allows us to pay for upkeep. We think the businesses ought to share in the cosmetic changes in the signs.

316 CHAIR DUKES: Is the language broad enough to cover the costs?

GRIBSKOV: If it is designated as a maintenance cost.

CHAIR DUKES: How did we get the historical signs?

GRIBSKOV: We were planning on putting the historic marker program into effect in the future. Ways and Means felt we should incorporate it sooner than we had originally planned. Ways and Means felt that the sliding fees was a way to fund the historic signs. TIC will still help coordinate the program.

CHAIR DUKES: I'm concerned about the deterioration of the signs. It seems that you are shedding responsibility. ODOT doesn't care about the historic marker program.

DWAYNE HOFSTETTER, STATE HIGHWAY DIVISION: We believe that without any additional funding we can bring the signs up to two-thirds of the desired level. We are in the process of fixing all the advanced signs, and plan to take care of the rest of the critical needs in the next biennium.

TAPE 92, SIDE B

SEN. SMITH: This is frustrating that we can't do more. I wish we would find money for markers where there aren't any. ODOT is cheap.

CHAIR DUKES: Is the budget for this still in Ways and Means?

HOFSTETTER: No. Both our budgets have passed.

CHAIR DUKES: Do you have an expenditure limitation allowing for more than \$14,000 for new signs?

HOFSTETTER: We will do more than the \$14,000. It costs less than what we initially thought. We don't have a good handle on the cost of the work that will actually have to be done.

CHAIR DUKES: Who has bottom line authority with the -1 amendments?

HOFSTETTER: We do. The amendments, though, do not address that issue.

CHAIR DUKES: I am unwilling to transfer, at this time, the authority over the historic marker program. I hope you will continue to work with them on this issue.

HOFSTETTER: Are you aware of the study we did during the interim?

CHAIR DUKES: Yes. We would like to see some improvements in this area.

HOFSTETTER: We never planned on relinquishing all of our control.

SEN. SMITH: I would like to see it transferred, but I want to leave it for now.

SEN. TIMMS: ODOT has helped in my area. This program has come along, but the shift would be a mistake at this time.

WORK SESSION ON SB 838

MOTION: SENATOR TIMMS MOVES THE -1 AMENDMENTS TO SB 838.

VOTE: HEARING NO OBJECTION, CHAIR DUKES SO MOVES.

MOTION: SENATOR TIMMS MOVES SB 838 AS AMENDED TO WAYS AND MEANS WITH A "DO PASS" RECOMMENDATION.

VOTE: IN A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIES, WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING AYE.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2233

LARSON: Explains the status of HB 2233.

MARLENE GORSUCH, PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION: Submits and reviews testimony. (EXHIBIT H)

SEN. MCCOY: The bank allows you to charge the discount. Is that unusual?

BROCKMAN: The merchant doesn't get the full amount of the sales tax. This allows them to take the commission.

WORK SESSION ON HB 2233

MOTION: SENATOR SMITH MOVES HB 2233 TO THE FLOOR WITH A "DO PASS" RECOMMENDATION.

VOTE: IN A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIES, WITH ALL MEMBERS VOTING AYE.

BROCKMAN: What would be the average charge?

RUSSELL: Those used for temporary purposes are \$9, plus the weight-mile tax for the trip through the state. It would range between \$10 to \$70.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 2858

MEREDITH: Submits and reviews testimony. (EXHIBIT I)

299 BOB RUSSELL: Submits and reviews testimony. (EXHIBIT J)

WORK SESSION ON HB 2858

MOTION: SENATOR PHILLIPS MOVES TO THE FLOOR WITH A "DO PASS" RECOMMENDATION.

VOTE: IN A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIES, WITH SENATORS TIMMS, DUFF, BROCKMAN, PHILLIPS, SMITH, AND DUKES VOTING AYE AND SENATOR MCCOY VOTING NAY.

CHAIR DUKES: Adjourns the meeting at 9:38.

Submitted by,

Reviewed by,

Scott Marshall
Committee Assistant

Ruth Larson
Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT LOG

- A - Senator Tricia Smith, 2 pages.
- B - Senator Tricia Smith, 2 pages.
- C - staff, 1 page.
- D - Danna Mercer, 3 pages.
- E - Robert Russell, 3 pages.
- F - Joanne Peterson, 1 page.
- G - staff, 1 page.
- H - Marlene Gorsuch, 1 page.
- I - Mike Meredith, 1 page.
- J - Robert Russell, 1 page.