



Oregon

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TO: House Transportation Committee

File Code:

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SUBJECT: HB 2661 -1

Introduction

House Bill 2661 with the -1 amendments enable the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to identify vehicles along roadsides that need to be removed, allow ODOT to put a tag on the vehicle to inform the vehicle owner that the vehicle will be removed and allow ODOT to tow the vehicle.

Discussion

In cooperation with the Oregon State Police (OSP), ODOT had been tagging abandoned vehicles along state highways and calling for them to be towed for the past few years. Last summer, OSP discovered that they could not continue to allow ODOT to perform that function. HB 2661-1 corrects that situation by explicitly giving ODOT tow authority.

As written, the -1 amendments appear to take away the ability for OSP to tag vehicles, and don't give ODOT the authority. This issue could be corrected by removing the proposed changes to Section 1, but leaving all other changes in the -1 amendments.

Summary

HB 2661, with the -1 amendments and the changes described above, restores the practice that had been in place by authorizing ODOT, in addition to the OSP, to tag and call for towing of vehicles along state highways.