

House Bill 2854, Motor Pool consolidation

This bill is one of several bills that the House will be hearing that come from the Government Efficiency Task Force. As you may recall, that group looked at a number of program areas or services where both state and county or local government are delivering a service.

Recognizing the need to restructure the delivery of government services, representatives of state and local governments and organizations worked together to identify opportunities to improve processes, fix problems, eliminate burdensome procedures, and so on. The ideas improve efficiency, reduce cost, and in some cases, also improve service.

The Task Force approved nearly two dozen ideas for including in a report of final recommendations. Several will be accomplished through administration actions, and a number of them require statutory change to make things better. This bill is one of those ideas.

We need to work better, and work smarter, and do that in conjunction with our county partners. As the Chair of the Task Force, I'm very happy to let you know that the Task Force unanimously supported forwarding this idea you will be hearing today.

For this bill: You'll hear that there are some places where we've already collaborated – the state, or a local government. That's great; I'm pleased.

This bill says: We need to continue to pro-actively mine for opportunities. It's not okay to be stuck in neutral, satisfied with status quo. In the reports from our task force, you'll find that the subcommittee that developed this said "State, county and city motor pool services become more efficient through enhancement of existing partnerships and consolidation of space, purchasing, repairs, etc."

There is not a single, collective data set that tells us what public agency motor pools exist in Oregon – state and local government, special districts, public utilities, and the like. We don't know how many agencies or public organizations operate motor pools or manage vehicles. It is difficult for the state and our local government partners to realize the full potential for collaboration and savings if we simply do not know what exists.

For example: In the Lane County-Eugene/Springfield area there are multiple individual motor pools operated by different local entities including the county, EWEB, City of Eugene, City of Springfield, University of Oregon, and Lane Transit District. Additionally, Lane County provides maintenance services for vehicles from Rainbow Water District and Lane ESD.

The bill does not mandate a one size fits all solution, any particular consolidation, closing any specific motor pool, selling off any specific fleet. It asks the department to reach out to local government to look for efficiencies. A group of clever people may find that in a geographic area we have 20% more vehicles than we really need and some can be sold or mothballed. Or

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maybe they could be deployed better, too many here and too few there. They may find that there are 3 physical facilities within 10 miles and we can make do with one or two. They may find that we need the vehicles deployed at those places, but local and state cooperation

The bill instructs DAS to report to the Legislature on potential costs and benefits of combining motor pool activities. The required report will ensure attention to continuous improvement.

We're serious about looking for efficiencies, and this gives direction to go do it. The local government partners on the task force as well as the state partners agreed unanimously to recommend this idea to you.