



NEWS

Oregon Legislature - House Democratic Caucus

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Safe Roads Act wins final legislative approval

Senate Bill 833B will improve road safety, allow Oregonians to get short-term driver cards

SALEM – Today the Oregon House of Representatives voted to improve road safety by creating a path for more people to become certified drivers. Senate Bill 833B will allow qualified drivers without proof of legal presence to obtain a short-term driver card, purchase liability insurance, and drive on Oregon's roads safely and legally.

“Public safety is a solemn responsibility we have as legislators, and this bill will make roads safer for everyone in Oregon,” said Representative Chris Harker (D – Beaverton), one of the chief sponsors of the bill. “I’m proud of this effort to reduce the number of unlicensed, uninsured drivers on our roads.”

Oregon currently requires driver's license applicants to verify their identity and proof of legal presence. SB 833B will allow for an alternative process to obtain a “driver card” from the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services division (DMV), which would be valid for four years. To receive a driver card, applicants must live in Oregon for at least one year and meet all other requirements of a driver's license – including the purchase of liability insurance once they are on the road. The card will prove driving certification but cannot be used as proof of identity.

“We have a responsibility to make our roads safe for everyone. Whether it's a mother driving her children to school or a father driving to the grocery store, all drivers should be tested and legally insured, regardless of the documents they have,” said Representative Jessica Vega Pederson (D – Portland), a chief sponsor of SB 833B.

The Safe Roads Act has won the support of law enforcement, business and agricultural leaders, faith communities, as well as advocates for low-income Oregonians.

“We will all benefit from increased safety and accountability under SB 833B,” House Majority Leader Val Hoyle said. “This bill will improve safety for everyone on the road, while allowing more Oregonians get to the places they need to go in a safe, legal way.”

SB 833B passed by a vote of 38 – 20. The Governor has announced plans to sign the bill tomorrow, May 1, 2013.

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