



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 19, 2019

To: Chief Clerk Tim Sekerak

Vote Explanation for HB 2015

Why I voted in favor of HB 2015 – Regardless of HB 2015, and with the implementation of Real ID, Oregon will have two distinct driver's license cards beginning July 2020. This is different from SB 833 (Measure 88) which would have required the creation of a new card. HB 2015 simply makes use of the standard driver's license that does not meet the requirements of legal presence for the purposes of federal identification.

Although HB 2015 does not require a person to prove legal presence for the standard driver's license, it still requires a person to prove their identity and Oregon residency, and requires the collection of biometric data consistent with current practice. Additionally, HB 2015 preserves the Real ID driver's license requirement that a person prove legal presence in the United States, and it complies with federal identification requirements.

My public safety background provides me with an orientation towards traffic safety. Although nothing is guaranteed, I believe we are better off with having people on the road who have demonstrated a basic proficiency in knowledge of the rules of the road and practical skills in operating a motor vehicle. Additionally, with the proof of identity and residency requirements in the bill, law enforcement officers will have better information regarding who's behind the wheel in the event of a traffic violation, traffic crash, or any other situation when the identity of the operator is important.

Although anyone can insure a car, insurance companies almost always will deny a claim in situations where the vehicle is not operated legally, including circumstances where the driver's license is revoked or suspended, or the driver simply does not have an operator's license. I believe HB 2015 removes a barrier for the purchase of motor vehicle insurance by allowing a path for the legal operation of a vehicle. This benefits us all.

In weighing my vote on HB 2015, I carefully considered all of the background information presented below. I'm also very aware that this bill has been seen and referred to as a pro or anti undocumented/illegal immigration bill. Many will no doubt disagree with me, but I refuse to see it that way. For me, this was a traffic safety vote. I believe HB 2015 will take some of the unknown, unlicensed, untrained drivers who don't know the rules of the road, and provide for proof of identity, proof of proficiency, proof of knowledge, and the ability to be insured. I see this as a benefit.

Some background information - The Real ID Act was passed by Congress in 2005, based on recommendations from the 9/11 Commission that the federal government “set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses.” It establishes standards that state-issued driver’s licenses and identification cards must meet in order to be accepted as identification for certain federal purposes.

The federal government has been granting Oregon an exemption from Real ID requirements; however, the current exemption expires October 2019. ODOT is optimistic that Oregon will receive additional extensions that will take us through October 2020. As ODOT’s recent computer overhaul wraps up, Oregon will begin issuing Real ID driver’s licenses in July 2020. Real ID licenses will be optional, and Oregonians who do not wish to get one can keep their standard driver’s license or ID card.

So what’s the difference? The difference is access. Starting Oct. 1, 2020, the federal government will require Real ID compliant identification from Oregonians wishing to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a secure federal building or military base, so you will not be able to use a standard Oregon Driver’s License or ID Card for these purposes.

Why does this matter? Beginning in July 2020, Oregon DMV will issue two types of cards. A Real ID driver’s license that grants driving privileges and shows Oregon residency and meets the federal requirements of legal presence in the United States, and the standard Oregon driver’s license that grants driving privileges and maintains our current identification and residency requirements.

Everything mentioned above regarding Real ID is taking place regardless of the outcome of HB 2015.

So what does HB 2015 do? - HB 2015 allows Oregon residents to obtain a non-commercial driver’s license without showing proof of legal presence, provided the person has a valid social security number or provides a signed written statement that the person has not been assigned a Social Security number.

HB 2015 requires several things for the issuance of a driver’s license:

- (1) A person must submit to collection of biometric data related to the identity of the person.
- (2) A person must show proof that they are an Oregon resident.
- (3) A person must pass the knowledge test and driving test, and
- (4) they must pay the appropriate fee for the license.

Also, in order to prove identity, a person must present one of the following:

- (1) An unexpired valid passport from the person’s country of citizenship;
- (2) An unexpired valid consular identification document
- (3) A driver license, driver permit, or identification card issued by this state
- (4) A driver license, driver permit, or identification card issued by another state

What about voting? HB 2015 also adds language to ORS 247.107 which deals with providing records to the Secretary of State for voter registration. The language clarifies the development of rules to ensure that only US citizens are registered to vote, in compliance with the voter registration provisions of the

National Voter Registration Act of 1993. This legislation does not increase the possibility of a non-citizen being registered to vote. US citizenship is still a requirement to vote or register to vote.

What about Measure 88? - Yes, my vote on HB 2015 did conflict with the people's vote on Measure 88. Yes, I have spoken on the floor of the House of Representatives that too many times during this legislative session we have ignored the will of the people. That is exactly why I voted no on HB 3427, a bill to raise your taxes and take money out of your pocket in direct conflict with measure 97. And I voted no on SB 1008, a bill making changes to minimum sentencing in direct conflict with measures 11 and 94. And that is why I proposed an amendment to HB 2015 to remove the emergency clause and refer the bill to the voters. Unfortunately, my amendment was not adopted.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Noble', written in a cursive style.

Ron Noble
State Representative
House District 24