

State Representative
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NEWS RELEASE: May 21, 2013

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***Rep Thatcher Introduces Priority Bill to Track
Impacts of New Driver Cards for Illegal Immigrants***

(Salem) New legislation designed to track the impacts of [new driver cards](#) issued by the Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division to illegal immigrants was introduced by [State Representative Kim Thatcher](#) (R-Keizer, Newberg, St. Paul) at the State Capitol today. [House Bill 3535](#) will continue annual reporting the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) has been doing over the past five years.

“Today House Bill 3535 is being introduced to keep those annual reports coming over the next 10 years so we can measure the outcomes of these new driver cards to see if there are improvements in public safety or not,” said Representative Thatcher during a remonstrance on the House Floor today.

In 2008 the legislature [changed state law](#) at the urging of Governor Ted Kulongoski to limit drivers licenses to only those people who had proper legal status. Representative Thatcher served on the House Rules Committee which [sponsored a bill](#) to require ODOT to produce a report every year to see if there was an increase in the number of unlicensed and uninsured drivers on Oregon’s roadways. The analysis also reviewed how many injury and fatal crashes involved these drivers.

That reporting law is going to sunset at the end of this year. The new law to allow illegal immigrants to obtain 4-year driver cards, [Senate Bill 833](#), did not continue those annual reports. House Bill 3535 will ensure that important accountability process remains in place.

“I can’t tell you how many dozens and dozens of emails and calls my office has received in recent weeks from citizens concerned about the impact of this new law to grant special driver cards to illegal immigrants and others,” explained Thatcher during a rally on the Capitol Steps today sponsored by Oregonians for Immigration reform.

Supporters of SB 833 maintain these new driver cards will reduce the number of unlicensed and uninsured drivers in Oregon. House Bill 3535 ensures the state has the ability to accurately track that information so legislators can make informed decisions about the new state law in the future.

[Some sources estimate](#) up to 60,000 people might be eligible for the new driver cards and [legislative budget staff](#) predicts up to 84,000 transactions may occur at DMV in the first year of the new law which [takes effect January 1, 2014](#).

Representative Thatcher has been on the forefront of this issue since 2007 when she joined Governor Kulongoski and others in voicing concerns about issuing driver licenses to people without proper legal status, identity theft, fraud and other public safety concerns. In the past five years since DMV limited driver licenses to legal residents, the reports generated by ODOT have not shown a significant increase in unlicensed and uninsured drivers causing problems on Oregon’s roads.

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