



REPRESENTATIVE GENE WHISNANT, DISTRICT 53

PRESS RELEASE
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House Passes “Keep Kids Safe” license plate Bill

Representative Gene Whisnant (R-Sunriver) sponsored [HB 3121](#), the “Keep Kids Safe” bill. Representative Whisnant has been fighting for passage of this bill for two sessions. This bill sets up a specialty license plate to sell. The raised revenue from these plates would go to child abuse prevention programs.

Child abuse and neglect is a problem in the state of Oregon. Last year there were over 26,000 reports of child abuse or neglect and 7,227 founded cases. Every day, (on average) 19 children are abused or neglected.

The Deschutes County Commission on Children and Families has found a donor for the set up fee. The application fee is refundable if 1,000 plates are sold within the first 12 months. There is a Kid’s plate in Indiana which has generated nearly \$1 million in revenue.

The bill will establish a surcharge fee of \$32 for two-year registration (\$8 per plate for each year of registration). The \$32 fee is in addition to the standard registration plate fee. The DMV will collect an administrative fee of 17.5% and the balance of the revenue will be directed to the Children’s Trust Fund of Oregon. The trust Fund will work with the State Commission on Children and Families who in turn will distribute the revenue to local commissions based on license plate sales in their county. Each county will determine how to invest the funds in proven child abuse prevention efforts.

This bill passed through the House this morning with a 53-3 vote. HB 3121 passed out of the House Transportation Committee with a unanimous vote and a due-pass recommendation on April 30th. This bill will move to the Senate where it will take hard work to move this through the process.

Representative Whisnant served on the Deschutes County Commission on Children and Families from 1999 until he became a Representative. He now serves as an Ex Officio on the County Commission. He is a Legislative Advisor member on the State Commission.

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