

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Deckert
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/24, 5/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Prohibits employees of mass transit districts, transportation districts and municipal bus systems from striking or recognizing the picket line of a labor organization while performing official duties. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Other states' statutes relating to collective bargaining
- Services affected when transit employees go on strike
- Support of measure by the Amalgamated Transit Union
- Opposition to measure from the Oregon Transit Association Board
- Neutrality of TriMet and Lane Transit District
- Whether to limit the prohibition under the measure to mass transit districts – the larger districts

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current statute prohibits firefighters, police officers, emergency telephone operators, and correctional officers from striking or recognizing a picket line of a labor organization. House Bill 2537-A adds employees of mass transit districts, transportation districts, and municipal bus systems to that list. The measure does not include transit employees in other statutes related to emergency personnel.

Transit strikes have been uncommon in Oregon. A recent one-day strike involved union drivers against a paratransit contractor for the Salem Area Mass Transit District. A 2005 strike by the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 at Lane Transit District was the first in that district's history. It involved 236 of the union's members and closed regular transit service, but paratransit services were maintained. The strike lasted a week and was concluded by a compromise contract following the use of a community mediation panel.

The potential for disruptions due to strikes is always a consideration during contentious labor negotiations. Without the right to strike, transit employee unions and management are reportedly more likely to move to binding arbitration in labor negotiations. Binding arbitration may favor labor or management depending on the issues brought to negotiation as well as current benefits and working conditions of labor.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.