

Senate Bill 745

Sponsored by Senator STARR

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes Department of Transportation to issue revenue bonds for purpose of constructing, repairing and improving bridges spanning Columbia River that are part of Interstate Highway 5.

Directs Department of Revenue to report amount of personal income tax revenues raised from Washington residents. Directs State Treasurer to transfer certain percent of those revenues to Columbia River Bridge Project Fund. Establishes fund and continuously appropriates moneys in fund to Department of Transportation for purpose of debt service on Columbia River bridge projects.

Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2007.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to Columbia River bridges; appropriating money; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) The Columbia River Bridge Project Fund is established in the State**
5 **Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Columbia**
6 **River Bridge Project Fund shall be credited to the Columbia River Bridge Project Fund.**

7 **(2) The Columbia River Bridge Project Fund shall consist of moneys transferred to the**
8 **fund under section 2 of this 2007 Act, interest credited to the fund and other moneys ap-**
9 **propriated to the fund by the Legislative Assembly.**

10 **(3) Moneys in the Columbia River Bridge Project Fund are continuously appropriated to**
11 **the Department of Transportation for the purpose of repaying principal and interest on any**
12 **revenue bonds issued under section 3 of this 2007 Act and any related debt administration**
13 **or debt service expenses incurred by the department, or any other expenses incurred by the**
14 **department in undertaking Columbia River bridge projects for which financing is authorized**
15 **under section 3 of this 2007 Act or in obtaining financing for such projects.**

16 **SECTION 2. (1) On or before July 1 of each year, the Department of Revenue shall esti-**
17 **mate the amount of personal income tax revenues raised by the State of Oregon from resi-**
18 **dents of the State of Washington during the previous calendar year, and shall report that**
19 **amount to the State Treasurer.**

20 **(2) The State Treasurer shall transfer 15 percent of the amount reported under sub-**
21 **section (1) of this section from the General Fund to the Columbia River Bridge Project Fund.**

22 **SECTION 3. (1) In addition to any authority the Department of Transportation has to**
23 **issue and sell bonds and other similar obligations, this section establishes continuing au-**
24 **thority for the issuance and sale of revenue bonds and other similar obligations in a manner**
25 **consistent with this section. To finance any Columbia River bridge project in whole or in**
26 **part, the department may request that the State Treasurer issue revenue bonds on behalf**
27 **of the department. Revenue bonds authorized under this section shall be issued in accord-**
28 **ance with the applicable provisions of ORS chapters 286 and 288. The bonds shall be secured**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 by a pledge of, and a lien on, and shall be payable only from moneys in the Columbia River
2 Bridge Project Fund established in section 1 of this 2007 Act and any other revenues specif-
3 ically pledged to repayment of the bonds. Such a pledge by the department of the revenues
4 described in this section creates a lien that is valid and binding from the time the pledge is
5 made as provided in ORS 288.594. Revenue bonds issued pursuant to this section are not
6 general obligations of the state and are not secured by or payable from any funds or assets
7 of the state other than the moneys and revenues specifically pledged to the repayment of
8 such revenue bonds.

9 (2) Moneys received from the issuance of revenue bonds or other debt obligations issued
10 under this section, including any investment earnings thereon, may be expended:

11 (a) For the purpose of paying the costs of any Columbia River bridge project;

12 (b) To pay the costs and other administrative expenses of the bonds;

13 (c) To pay the costs of credit enhancement or to fund any reserves determined to be
14 necessary or advantageous in connection with the revenue bonds; and

15 (d) To reimburse the department for any costs related to carrying out the purposes of
16 this section.

17 (3) Any Columbia River bridge project may be financed in whole or in part with:

18 (a) The proceeds of grant anticipation revenue bonds authorized by 23 U.S.C. 122 and
19 applicable state law.

20 (b) Grants, loans, loan guarantees, lines of credit, revolving lines of credit or other fi-
21 nancing arrangements available pursuant to the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and
22 Innovation Act under 23 U.S.C. 181 et seq., or any other applicable federal law.

23 (c) Infrastructure loans or assistance from the Oregon Transportation Infrastructure
24 Fund established by ORS 367.015.

25 (4) As security for the payment of financing described in subsection (3) of this section,
26 the revenues from the Columbia River Bridge Project Fund may be pledged, but no such
27 pledge of revenues constitutes in any manner or to any extent a general obligation of the
28 State of Oregon. Any financing described in subsection (3) of this section may be structured
29 on a senior, parity or subordinate basis to any other financing.

30 (5) As used in this section, "Columbia River bridge project" means any construction, re-
31 pair or improvement project related to a bridge spanning the Columbia River between Oregon
32 and Washington that is also a part of Interstate Highway 5, including any highway con-
33 struction, repair or improvement that is related to ingress and egress from a bridge de-
34 scribed in this section.

35 **SECTION 4.** This 2007 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
36 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2007 Act takes effect
37 on July 1, 2007.