

# Senate Bill 943

Sponsored by Senator G GEORGE (at the request of Oregon State Grange)

## 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**.

Directs Department of Transportation to construct limited access highway between Port of Coos Bay and Ontario.

Refers Act to people for their approval or rejection at next regular general election.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to construction of highways; and providing that this Act shall be referred to the people for  
3 their approval or rejection.

4 Whereas researchers at Portland State University's Population Research Center predict that by  
5 2025, there will be one million more residents in Oregon; and

6 Whereas traffic flow in the Portland metropolitan area exceeds highway design capabilities,  
7 creating congestion, increasing accident potential and negatively impacting the quality of life for  
8 metropolitan-area residents; and

9 Whereas much of the traffic congestion results from a lack of alternative highway routes for  
10 southwest Oregon and northern California traffic heading to the north and east of this state, forcing  
11 all traffic to flow through the Portland metropolitan area; and

12 Whereas constructing highways in rural areas of the state is more cost-efficient than adding  
13 highway lanes in urban areas; and

14 Whereas much of Oregon's motor carrier traffic runs through school zones and the centers of  
15 small towns, creating safety hazards and congestion; and

16 Whereas Interstate 84 is vulnerable to seismic events and other natural disasters, which could  
17 seriously jeopardize Oregon's economy; and

18 Whereas an alternate east-west highway to Interstate 84 is needed in Oregon; and

19 Whereas Oregon needs to divert the population growth; and

20 Whereas a limited access highway is an excellent tool for land-use management through limited  
21 access points; and

22 Whereas a limited access highway will boost the economic development of rural areas; and

23 Whereas there are many alternative funding options to construct a limited access highway in  
24 Oregon; now, therefore,

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

26 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Transportation shall construct a limited access**  
27 **highway from the Port of Coos Bay to Ontario.**

28 **(2) Before proceeding with construction, the department shall determine what portion**  
29 **of the costs of construction and maintenance could be recovered through tolls on users of**  
30 **the limited access highway.**

31 **SECTION 2. This 2007 Act shall be submitted to the people for their approval or rejection**

**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 **at the next regular general election held throughout this state.**

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