

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass
Vote: 4 - 0 - 1
Yeas: George, Schrader, Verger, Metsger
Nays: -
Exc.: Starr
Prepared By: Jim Stembridge, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Increases maximum length of school buses from 40 feet to 45 feet. Declares an emergency, effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Reconfiguration of buses
- Driver ergonomics
- Handling characteristics of newly-designed buses
- Visibility and student-safety

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: ORS 818.100 limits the maximum allowable length for single vehicles to 40 feet. However, the statute provides exceptions for road maintenance, mass transit, recreational, and other vehicles.

School buses are currently subject to the 40-foot maximum length requirement. A newly-designed model of the Blue Bird Bus Company, manufacturers of a large percentage of Oregon school buses, measures 40 feet nine inches in length, which is nine inches longer than Oregon currently allows. House Bill 2562 adds an exemption, allowing school buses up to 45 feet in length, consistent with the statutory maximum for recreational vehicles at ORS 818.100(16)(a).