

**PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****CARRIER:**

House Committee on Transportation &amp; Economic Development

**REVENUE: No revenue impact****FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued****SUBSEQUENT REFERRAL TO: No Subsequent Referral****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Troy Rayburn, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/22

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Directs Secretary of State to conduct annual financial review of moneys collected, borrowed, received and expended by Travel Information Council. Provides that Secretary of State may contract with an independent certified public accountant to conduct the review, or accept a financial review conducted by an independent certified public accountant.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

Issues discussed in the House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development:

- Requested by Oregon Travel Experience
- External audit as a good managerial decision
- Review of work on rest areas around the state in the last two years
- Overview of responsibilities, including maintenance, use of on-site staff, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance
- Sources of funding
- House Bill 2009 (2012 Legislative Session)
- Lawsuit relating to constitutional use of highway funds

Issues discussed in the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation:

- History of Travel Information Council and Oregon Travel Experience
- Measure requested by agency

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Passed out of the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation with a 5-0-1 vote. Passed on the Senate floor 29 ayes and one excused.

Oregon Travel Experience (OTE) was created by the Legislative Assembly in 1972 and is a semi-independent state agency that connects motorists with businesses through highway signs, rest area information kiosks, business listings on [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com) and on the Statewide Interactive Heritage Map. The nine-member Oregon Travel Information Council (TIC) serves as OTE's governing board. The Council is composed of ten members appointed by the Governor, plus one member representing the Oregon Transportation Commission.

In 2010, OTE assumed management of nine rest areas in five Oregon locations along Interstate 5 and Interstate 84. Senate Bill 1591 (2012) increased the number of rest areas over which OTE has management responsibility; the Oregon Department of Transportation maintains ownership of these rest areas, with OTE managing the rest areas through intergovernmental agreement. The 2012 measure also granted OTE the authority to erect and repair structures and to acquire and sell real property and transferred State Highway Trust Funds to OTC for management, maintenance, improvement and development of the rest areas.

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

Senate Bill 276 directs that the Audits Division of the Office of Secretary of State conduct an annual financial review of the moneys collected, borrowed, received and expended by Oregon Travel Experience under the direction of the Oregon Travel Information Council.