

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Carrier – House: Rep. Read
Carrier – Senate: Sen. Monroe

Revenue: No revenue impact

Fiscal: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure as Amended and as Printed B-Engrossed

Vote: 18 – 8 – 0

House

Yeas: Barker, Buckley, Frederick, Huffman, Jenson, Komp, Nathanson, Read, Smith, Tomei, Williamson

Nays: Freeman, Hanna, McLane, Richardson

Exc:

Senate

Yeas: Bates, Devlin, Edwards, Johnson, Monroe, Steiner Hayward, Winters

Nays: Girod, Hansell, Thomsen, Whitsett

Exc:

Prepared By: Linda Gilbert, Legislative Fiscal Office

Meeting Date: July 7, 2013

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Authorizes issuance of lottery bonds for transportation projects funded from the Multimodal Transportation Fund and specifies the allocation of the proceeds. Stipulates that a railroad company may not receive, directly or indirectly, a grant or loan from the Multimodal Transportation Fund if it charges a landowner for an easement to cross a railroad located wholly within Linn and Benton County if the crossing is necessary to enter the landowner's property unless the charge was imposed and collected prior to January 1, 2013. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Fiscal impact

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Removes the bond authorization language, and allows bicycle and pedestrian projects.

BACKGROUND: The Legislative Assembly created the ConnectOregon program in 2005 to provide funding in the form of grants and loans for non-highway transportation projects, including aviation, marine, passenger and freight rail and public transportation projects. The initial program provided \$100 million in lottery-backed bonds, which provided funding for 38 projects; it was followed by an additional \$100 million in 2007 (30 projects) and 2009 (40 projects). The Legislative Assembly approved \$40 million for ConnectOregon IV in 2011; the funds were used to help finance 38 projects, which were able to leverage a total of \$95 million in non-ConnectOregon funds. Overall, the ConnectOregon program in its four iterations has received a total of 424 eligible project applications, of which 203 were selected for funding; when combined with leveraged funds, the program has resulted in a total of \$834 million in direct investment to multimodal transportation improvements.

Senate Bill 260 authorizes the fifth iteration of ConnectOregon for an unspecified amount of lottery bond proceeds to be determined later. The funds are to be allocated to five geographic regions across Oregon, with each of the five regions to receive at least 10 percent of the total allocated, provided there are qualified projects in each region to be funded.

Senate Bill 260 also stipulates that a railroad company may not receive funding from the Multimodal Transportation Fund if it charges a landowner for an easement to cross the railroad, unless the charge was imposed and collected prior to January 1, 2013. The measure applies only to the Albany & Eastern Railroad.

The measure also changes administrative provisions for aviation related projects.