

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/20/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 04/20

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Girod, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Prepared By: James LaBar, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Clarifies modifications of standards for rail fixed guideway systems to align with recently published federal standards.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- New federal standards for safety of rail fixed guideway systems
- Freight railroad safety concerns

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Removes increase of maximum rate of assessment paid by freight railroads operating in Oregon. Clarifies modifications for standards for rail fixed guideway systems to align with recently published federal standards.

BACKGROUND:

There are concerns about the safe operation of public transportation by rail fixed guideway systems (trolleys, light rail and subways) across the nation. Congress responded to these concerns in 2012 in the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) by expanding the scope and requirements placed on states for safety oversight of rail fixed guideway systems that receive federal funds through the Federal Transit Administration and are not subject to Federal Railroad Administration regulation.