

Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session
STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY
House Committee On Transportation and Economic Development

MEASURE: SB 139
CARRIER: Rep. Lively

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 05/15/15

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 04/27, 05/15

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Gorsek, Lively, McKeown, McLain

Exc: 3 - Bentz, Davis, Hack

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Decreases Travel Information Council membership from 11 members to nine members. Eliminates requirement that an organization that wishes to serve cookies, coffee or other nonalcoholic beverages at roadside rest areas must submit a request to the Council by a specified date. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Activities of Oregon Travel Experience and the Travel Information Council
- Difficulty in filling vacancies and meeting quorum requirements

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Travel Information Council (TIC) is the governing body for Oregon Travel Experience (OTE). Ten volunteer members are appointed by the Governor and one position represents the Oregon Transportation Commission. These private citizens donate their time to determine rules and policies for OTE programs. Their mission is to create a positive visitor experience by providing directions to destinations, connecting travelers with Oregon's resources, and ensuring safe and convenient travel.

One of the Council's programs is rest area supervision. This program oversees all aspects of rest area operations. The Council is challenged currently when someone drops out of an opportunity to provide coffee and cookie service with less than 60 days' notice, as current law prevents TIC from finding a replacement without violating the law. Additionally, the Council chooses organizations for coffee and cookie service through a lottery process. Many apply at the beginning of the year to be considered for specific dates throughout the year. Senate Bill 139 provides the Council the flexibility to find replacements for these services, particularly at rest areas where the Council has more difficulty getting organizations to volunteer.

Senate Bill 139 also reduces the size of the Council by two members. The Council's size has been deemed to be cumbersome and, as a result, achieving a quorum can be problematic when positions are vacant. The Council currently has two unfilled vacancies.