

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/08/16

Action: Do Pass.

Meeting Dates: 02/08

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Beyer, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen

Nays: 1 - Girod

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Exempts prepaid transportation cards from the Uniform Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act and related statutes and from provisions related to the regulation of gift cards with expiration dates.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Based on similar systems used in other cities in western United States
- Other Oregon transit providers considering similar systems
- Statutes regulating gift cards
- Whether a public agency should be exempted from a statute that applies to private entities

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

TriMet, a public transportation agency providing bus, light rail and commuter rail service in the metropolitan Portland area, is planning to implement an electronic fare system in 2016 similar to systems adopted by several other transit districts around the country. Other transit agencies in Oregon are considering adopting electronic fare systems as well.

Under such systems, transit riders create an account and deposit money into it, and are subsequently issued a card which they tap on a sensor as they board a bus or train to deduct the price of the fare from the account. The system tracks the amount remaining in the account, allowing a rider to replenish the account or to replace a lost card without losing the balance in the account.