

HB 2777 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Allows mass transit districts to administratively adjudicate ordinance violations. Creates standards for adjudication process.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon statute, failing to pay a transit fare, or otherwise violating transit rules, is a Class A misdemeanor. See ORS 267.990. Some counties, including Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas, have stopped prosecuting most transit related violations. The decision to end prosecutions of transit violations stems from concerns that prosecutions clog the court system and have a detrimental effect on the individual rider, who may not be able to pay the fine or contest the charge.

House Bill 2777 gives mass transit districts the authority to create alternative administrative processes for resolving violations and to reduce fines from the current \$175 level or order community service as an alternative to fines. If the case is not resolved through the administrative process, the transit district could still charge the individual in court within 90 days of the citation being issued. Additionally, a rider would not be required to use the administrative process and could request a court hearing.