



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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**DATE:** March 27, 2017

**TO:** Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

**FROM:** Paul Mather, Administrator  
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**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 989

## INTRODUCTION

Senate Bill 989 directs the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to turn over the management of a number of rest areas to the Oregon Travel Information Council.

## DISCUSSION

Over the past eight years, the Travel Information Council has taken over the management and operation of a number of rest areas from ODOT. This bill directs the agency to take on 11 additional rest areas. Some of the rest areas designated may not fit within the model created by the Travel Information Council or may be at a distance that it may not be financially feasible for them to maintain them.

In addition, ODOT pays the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department \$2.5 million each biennium to avoid charging day use fees at 27 state parks that function as rest stops for motorists. This bill would move 12 of those parks under the management of the Travel Information Council.

ODOT, the Travel Information Council and State Parks have met to discuss the potential change in management of the rest areas identified in the bill. To implement the bill, ODOT would need to adjust its agreements with both agencies.

While the alignment of the management of rest areas among agencies makes sense, the bill does not provide any additional funding to support the alignment. As currently written, the bill is silent on the amount of funding to support the effort, but directs ODOT to transfer funds to the Travel Information Council. ODOT could transfer the existing dollars it provides to operate these facilities, but anything beyond those dollars would have a detrimental effect on the maintenance of the state highway system.

## SUMMARY

Senate Bill 989 would realign the management of rest areas between ODOT, the Travel Information Council and State Parks. The bill does not provide any new revenue to fund the activities.