

HB 2749 -1, -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Transportation Policy

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/22, 4/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Directs the Port of Hood River and the Department of Transportation to study the feasibility of replacing the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge; authorizes issuance of \$5 million in lottery bonds to finance the study. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

This bill has a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance to interstate commerce
- Bridge is at the end of it's useful life
- Too narrow for larger loads
- Built in 1924
- Sufficiency rating below 50%

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Replaces the bill. Removes references to the Department of Transportation. Directs the Port of Hood River to conduct a study and report to the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2018 on recommendations for the next steps to taken toward funding and replacement of the bridge. The study must evaluate environmental impacts; engineering requirements and design and construction options; cost and financing options; and project delivery methods and schedules. Authorizes issuance of lottery bonds sufficient to generate \$5.0 million in net proceeds. Declares and emergency, effective on passage.

-2 Replaces the bill. Directs the Port of Hood River to conduct a study and report to the Legislative Assembly no later than December 31, 2018 on recommendations for the next steps to taken toward funding and replacement of the bridge. The study must evaluate environmental impacts; engineering requirements and design and construction options; cost and financing options; and project delivery methods and schedules. Directs the Port of Hood River and the Department of Transportation to enter into an agreement to outline methods by which the port will conduct the study; outline the project development work necessary for the study; directs the department to reimburse the port for expenses incurred, contingent on satisfactory progress and documentation; provides that reimbursements will not occur until lottery bonds are authorized. Authorizes issuance of lottery bonds sufficient to generate \$5.0 million in net proceeds. Declares and emergency, effective on passage.

BACKGROUND:

The Hood River-White Salmon Bridge crosses the Columbia River at Hood River and provides access to the communities of White Salmon and Bingen, Washington. The bridge was built in 1924 and rebuilt in 1938, when the construction of the Bonneville Dam caused water levels to rise and made the addition of a lift span necessary. In 1950, the Port of Hood River purchased the bridge and currently charges a toll on the bridge. It is estimated the cost

of bridge replacement is \$250 million.

PRELIMINARY