

HB 2777 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Meeting Dates: 4/25

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Requires mass transit districts utilizing administrative process to track data relating to violations. Allows Tri-Met advisory committee to appoint oversight work group made up of community members. Provides requirements for work group membership.

BACKGROUND:

Under current Oregon law, a rider who fails to pay the transit fare, or commits another transit related violation, can be cited and fined. There is ongoing concern that these citations can have a detrimental effect on the individual rider, who may not be able to pay or contest the fine. The record of the citation may also affect the rider's ability to find employment or housing or continue military service.

House Bill 2777 gives mass transit districts the ability to create an alternative administrative process for resolving violations. Mass transit districts will be able to reduce fines through an in-house hearing, or order community service as an alternative to fines. If the case is not resolved through the administrative process, the transit district can still charge the individual in court within 90 days of the citation being issued. Additionally, a rider is not required to participate in the administrative process and can request a court hearing.