

SB 1536 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Business and Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 2/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires mass transit board members to be appointed by Governor. Allows current elected directors of mass transit districts to serve remainder of term, unless discharged earlier by Governor. Repeals restrictions on certain financing methods for mass transit districts in which the directors are elected, effective January 1, 2024.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Repeals statute requiring Governor to solicit recommendations of qualified people from each county and city within subdistrict from which a member of mass transit district is to be appointed. Adds requirement that Governor must solicit recommendations for the position from local business and civic groups. Changes operative date of repeal of ORS 267.302 by section 4 from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

Mass transit districts provide mass transportation for passengers and can include park-and-ride stations, transfer stations, parking lots, and transit malls. Oregon law allows two methods for the formation of a mass transit district. One method (ORS 267.085) allows the mass transit district to include all territory within the counties comprising the metropolitan statistical area, and it requires the Governor to appoint, subject to Senate confirmation, one director from each of seven subdistricts. The other method (ORS 267.107) limits the size of the district to the city's urban growth boundary and it calls for the voters in each of seven subdistricts to select a director. When a mass transit district forms under ORS 267.107, the district must seek voter approval for certain financing methods including the levy of a tax measured by employer payrolls, sale of bonds, levy of business license fees, levy of ad valorem taxes, use of the revolving fund, and a levy of tax measured by net income.

SB 1536 requires all mass transit districts, regardless of how they were formed, to have board of directors appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The measure also removes restrictions on methods of financing available to districts that formed under ORS 267.107, effective January 1, 2024.