

**Corrected****SB 1536 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY****Carrier:** Sen. Courtney, Sen. Winters**Senate Committee On Business and Transportation**


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**Action Date:** 02/07/18  
**Action:** Do pass with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)  
**Vote:** 4-0-1-0  
**Yeas:** 4 - Beyer, Monroe, Riley, Thomsen  
**Exc:** 1 - Girod  
**Fiscal:** No fiscal impact  
**Revenue:** No revenue impact  
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**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. Adds requirement that Governor must solicit recommendations for director positions from local business and civic groups. Repeals restrictions on certain financing methods for mass transit districts in which the directors are elected, effective January 1, 2026.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Differences between model of Salem Area Mass Transit District and those of other mass transit districts
- Percentage of mass transit district boards that are appointed instead of elected
- Availability of transit services in Salem on nights and weekends
- Strength of appointed board

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Removes proposed requirement for 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 for districts formed under ORS 267.107. Adds requirement that Governor must solicit recommendations for the position from local business and civic groups for districts formed under ORS 267.107. Changes operative date of repeal of ORS 267.302 from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2026.

**BACKGROUND:**

Mass transit districts provide public 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-ORS 267.090) allows the mass transit district to include all territory within the counties comprising the metropolitan statistical area, and 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 a city's urban growth boundary and calls for the voters in each of seven subdistricts to select a director. For mass transit districts formed under the latter method, 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-A 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, 2026.