

## **HB 2970 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

### **Joint Committee On Transportation**

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**Prepared By:** Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

**Meeting Dates:** 3/4

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Requires that trains and light engines transporting freight must have two crew members, except in certain cases. Imposes civil penalties for violations for first, second, and subsequent violations. Designates violation as a Class D violation, punishable by a maximum fine of \$250.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

-1 Stipulates that measure's provisions related to freight train crews apply only to Class I and Class II railroads.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

According to the American Association of Railroads (AAR), a total of 64.8 million tons of Oregon freight was moved by rail in 2017, an increase of over 20 million tons from 2012. Principal commodities carried by trains include wood and paper products, farm-related products, chemicals such as soda ash or potash, transportation equipment, petroleum, metal products, stone, scrap materials, and various wholesale and retail shipments. Railroads employed 2,026 Oregonians in 2015, who collectively earned \$214.8 million in wages.

Most freight trains today utilize two on-board crew: the conductor is the lead employee and is in charge of ensuring that the train departs and arrives on time. The engineer is in charge of actual operation of the train, monitoring and controlling speed with a variety of controls. Both crew occupy the locomotive cab.