

SB 747 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 4/8

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates the TriMet Crash Advisory Committee. Sets criteria for appointing members of the Committee. Requires the Committee to review certain crashes involving TriMet vehicles, assess causes of the crashes, make recommendations to prevent future crashes, and submit quarterly reports on findings to Transportation Safety Committee.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

House Bill 1808 (1969) allowed the formation of transit districts in Oregon, and later that year Portland's Resolution 30598 created the Tri-County Metropolitan Transportation District of Oregon (TriMet). TriMet has grown in the past 50 years to operate buses and light rail in the Portland area and commuter rail service to connect Beaverton, Tigard, Tualatin, and Wilsonville. There are almost 80 bus lines, five light rail lines, and four streetcar lines that served over 76,000,000 trips in the 2018 fiscal year. According to the federal Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), nationwide in 2016 there were 80 reported fatalities from motor buses and 14 reported fatalities from light rail. BTS also reported 7,235 injuries from motor buses and 252 injuries from light rail in 2016.

TriMet currently has six advisory committees on issues such as accessible transportation, accountability, and special transportation funding. Senate Bill 747 creates the TriMet Crash Advisory Committee to review TriMet accidents involving injury or fatality. The measure establishes criteria for choosing Committee members and stipulates that the Committee will review accidents, provide recommendations, and present findings to the Transportation Safety Committee.