A-Bill for an Act

Relating to funding Connect Oregon transportation projects; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) For the biennium beginning July 1, 2019, at the request of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, the State Treasurer is authorized to issue lottery bonds pursuant to ORS 286A.560 to 286A.585 in an amount that produces $50 million in net proceeds and interest earnings for the purpose described in subsection (2) of this section, plus an additional amount estimated by the State Treasurer to be necessary to pay bond-related costs.

(2) Net proceeds of lottery bonds issued pursuant to this section and interest earnings must be transferred to the Department of Transportation for deposit in the Connect Oregon Fund established under ORS 367.080 in an amount sufficient to provide $50 million for the department to finance grants for transportation projects as provided in ORS 367.080 to 367.089.

(3) Bond-related costs for the lottery bonds authorized by this section must be paid from the gross proceeds of the lottery bonds and from allocations for the purposes of ORS 286A.576 (1)(c).

(4) The Legislative Assembly finds that issuing lottery bonds to finance transportation projects pursuant to this section is essential to promoting the state's economic development, and the use of lottery bond proceeds is authorized based on the following findings:

(a) There is an urgent need to improve and expand publicly owned and privately owned transportation infrastructure to support economic development in this state.

(b) A safe, efficient and reliable transportation network supports the long-term economic development and livability of this state.

(c) A multimodal network of transportation options moves people and goods efficiently.

(d) Local governments and private sector businesses often lack capital and the technical capacity to undertake multimodal transportation projects.

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.
(e) Public financial assistance can stimulate industrial growth and commercial enterprise and promote employment opportunities in this state.

(f) Public investment in transportation infrastructure will create jobs and further economic development in this state.

(g) The use of lottery bond proceeds as provided in this section will create jobs, further economic development, finance public education or restore and protect parks, beaches, watersheds and native fish and wildlife within Oregon, and issuance of lottery bonds for the purpose described in this section is therefore an appropriate use of state lottery funds under Article XV, section 4, of the Oregon Constitution, and ORS 461.510.

SECTION 2. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect on its passage.