

HB 4097 -1 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Judiciary

Prepared By: Michael Lantz, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 2/5, 2/12

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that police officers may not conduct or participate in checks to determine whether an individual has paid fares imposed by a mass transit district.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Concerns about disparities in fare enforcement
- Overview of TriMet's use of police officers
- Potential for clarifying amendment

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-1 Clarifies that police officer may be present on mass transit district vehicle or property, may enforce laws unrelated to fares, and may intervene to protect safety of police officer or public.

BACKGROUND:

Under ORS 276.320, Mass Transit Districts are allowed to assess charges and fees on individuals who use the transportation services provided by the districts. In addition, Mass Transit Districts are able to commission police officers for the enforcement of district ordinances. These officers may be asked to assist fare inspectors during fare checks, in addition to their other duties. Mass Transit Districts in Oregon include TriMet, Salem-Keizer Transit (Cherriots), and Lane Transit District.

HB 3337 prohibits a police officer from conducting or participating in any effort to determine whether an individual has paid a charge, fee, or toll imposed by a mass transit district.