

**HB 2781 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Joint Committee On Transportation**

---

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

**Sub-Referral To:** House Committee On Revenue

**Meeting Dates:** 2/2

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Authorizes the formation of a bridge district in the capital city region, consisting of Benton, Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties. Authorizes the District to levy property taxes for the purpose of planning, financing, constructing, operating, and maintaining bridges over the Willamette River in the capital city region. Provides for creation of the District board, consisting of five members, one elected from each constituent county and one from the district at large. Sunsets January 2, 2028. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

There are currently two road bridges that span the Willamette River in Salem: the Center Street Bridge, constructed in 1918, carries traffic eastbound on Oregon Highway 22; and the Marion Street Bridge, which was completed in 1952 and which carries traffic westbound on Highway 22. The next closest road crossings are the Champoeg Road Bridge, 34 miles to the north, and the Independence Street Bridge, which is just under 13 miles to the south.

House Bill 2781 allows the creation of a capital city bridge district for the purpose of planning, financing, constructing, operating, and maintaining bridges over the Willamette River in the area. The District may be formed via petition, which must include a permanent rate limit for operating taxes in the District.