

HB 2137 -6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/2, 5/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Willamette River Bridge Task Force. Sunsets Task Force on December 31, 2024. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

NOTE - measure has a subsequent referral to the Committee on Ways and Means

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Recent efforts to develop new crossing over Willamette River near Salem
- Distance to next nearest crossings
- Congestion and safety concerns about existing crossings

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-6 Replaces original measure. Establishes Willamette River Bridge Task Force, consisting of nine members appointed by Senate President, Speaker of the House, and Governor. **Modifies procedure for appointment of member recommended by Special Districts Association of Oregon.** Directs Task Force to conduct study to explore strategies for the financing, construction, and maintenance of an additional bridge crossing the Willamette River connection Marion and Polk counties. Directs Department of Transportation to provide support for Task Force **and to gather and summarize information from prior studies.** Requires Task Force to report findings, including possible recommendations for legislation, to Legislative Assembly by December 15, 2024. Sunsets December 31, 2024. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

FIS: Fiscal statement issued on measure w/the -6 amendment

RIS: "Revenue Lite" hall pass statement issued on measure w/the -6 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 2137 establishes an eight-member Willamette River Bridge Task Force, consisting of two legislators appointed by the presiding officers and six members appointed by the Governor, three each from lists of persons recommended by the Marion County and Polk County boards of commissioners, respectively. The Task Force is directed to study strategies for financing, constructing, and maintaining an additional bridge spanning the Willamette River and connecting Polk and Marion counties.