

HB 2793 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

Action Date: 05/11/23

Action: Do pass with amendments and be referred to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

House Vote

Yeas: 7 - Boshart Davis, Evans, Helfrich, Mannix, McLain, Nathanson, Pham K

Senate Vote

Yeas: 3 - Frederick, President Wagner, Woods

Abs: 2 - Boquist, Findley

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/4, 5/11

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes the Jurisdictional Transfer Advisory Committee within the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), consisting of 11 members appointed by the Governor. Directs Advisory Committee to review proposed jurisdictional transfer applications, develop a list of three recommended transfers before each odd-numbered year session, and submit report with list of projects recommended for funding to the Joint Committee on Transportation. Outlines criteria for evaluation of applications. Specifies that ODOT will provide assistance and meeting space for Advisory Committee. Requires advisory committee to meet at least four times each year. Directs ODOT to adopt rules specifying process for applying for inclusion. Prescribes list of application requirements. Sunsets January 2, 2029. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Jurisdictional concerns about "orphan highways"
- Planning considerations for safety and traffic improvements
- Ongoing maintenance needs of orphan highways

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces the measure.

BACKGROUND:

Like many states, Oregon is home to a number of prominent roads that were developed for significantly different purposes than they currently serve. Some were originally highways connecting rural areas to markets, only to see communities build up around them through development and population growth. In other cases, development can lead to local streets that become significant connector routes. Local governments and the Oregon Department of Transportation studied a number of potential transfers for years. However, the transfer process can be complicated, because it is often necessary to make significant and costly upgrades to a given highway facility prior to the transfer.

House Bill 2793 A creates the Jurisdictional Transfer Advisory Committee. The measure directs the Governor to appoint 11 members, consisting of transportation engineers; city, county, and regional government representatives; road and transit users; law enforcement; and one member each from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Transportation Safety Committee. Members will serve four-year terms. Committee selects a chair from among its own members, adopts rules, and qualified members are entitled to compensation for travel and other expenses. The Department of Transportation is directed to provide assistance and meeting

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space.

The purpose of the Jurisdictional Transfer Advisory Committee is to solicit and review applications for potential transfers, and to select three applications to forward to the Joint Committee on Transportation for consideration prior to each odd-numbered-year legislative session. In addition to review by the Oregon Transportation Commission, the Advisory Committee is to evaluate using criteria such as differing standards of maintenance; use of the highway by the community; climate impacts of transfer and subsequent upgrades; multimodal transportation options; potential positive impacts on underserved groups; and transfer readiness.