

# House Bill 2691

Sponsored by Representative NATHANSON, Senator GORSEK; Representatives DEXTER, LEVY B, Senators DEMBROW, PATTERSON (Pre-session filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Provides that any agreement related to providing ultra-high-speed ground transportation in this state must include service to Eugene.

Prohibits Department of Transportation from expending in any biennium more than 50 percent, or \$1 million, whichever is less, of moneys available to department for passenger rail service, on ultra-high-speed ground transportation.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to rail transportation; and declaring an emergency.

3 Whereas the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor, Cascades Rail Corridor, is one of 11 federally  
4 designated high-speed rail corridors in the United States; and

5 Whereas the 462-mile Cascades Rail Corridor serves the most densely populated areas of the  
6 Cascadia region, linking Vancouver, British Columbia to Eugene, Oregon; and

7 Whereas additional rail transportation infrastructure is necessary to address the congested  
8 roads and airports in the Cascades Rail Corridor; and

9 Whereas the feasibility of developing ultra-high-speed ground transportation along the Cascades  
10 Rail Corridor requires a strong passenger rail service system; and

11 Whereas ultra-high-speed ground transportation is not intended to wholly replace the Amtrak  
12 Cascades intercity passenger rail system but instead serve as an additional, supplementary travel  
13 option throughout the region; and

14 Whereas continuing to improve existing passenger rail service speed, reliability, and frequency  
15 serves the transportation system immediately and helps build train ridership; and

16 Whereas it is vital that efforts to develop ultra-high-speed ground transportation in the region  
17 must include service to Eugene, Oregon; now, therefore,

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

19 **SECTION 1. (1) The Department of Transportation is authorized to enter into agreements**  
20 **with other jurisdictions related to mutual planning for improved passenger rail service, in-**  
21 **cluding ultra-high-speed ground transportation, within the Cascades Rail Corridor. Any**  
22 **agreement related to ultra-high-speed ground transportation in this state must include pro-**  
23 **viding service to Eugene. The department may adopt rules necessary to implement any**  
24 **agreement established under this section.**

25 **(2) The department may not expend in any biennium more than 50 percent, or \$1 million,**  
26 **whichever is less, of the moneys available to the department for passenger rail service, on**  
27 **ultra-high-speed ground transportation.**

28 **SECTION 2. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public**

**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.

1 **peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect**  
2 **on its passage.**

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