A-Bill for an Act

Relating to passenger rail service; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. The Department of Transportation shall study options for expanding passenger rail service in Oregon. The department shall submit a report in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, and may include recommendations for legislation, to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to transportation no later than September 15, 2024.

SECTION 2. Section 1 of this 2023 Act is repealed on January 2, 2025.

SECTION 3. (1) The Department of Transportation is authorized to enter into agreements with other jurisdictions related to mutual planning for improved passenger rail service, including ultra-high-speed ground transportation, within the Cascades Rail Corridor. Any agreement related to ultra-high-speed ground transportation in this state must include providing service to Eugene. The department may adopt rules necessary to implement any agreement established under this section.

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

SECTION 4. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.

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.

LC 1391